

*Cecily Brown: Rehearsal*  
October 7–December 18, 2016

Main Gallery

Opening Reception: Thursday, October 6, 6–8pm

For further information and images, please contact  
Molly Gross, *Communications Director*, The Drawing Center  
212 219 2166 x119 | [mgross@drawingcenter.org](mailto:mgross@drawingcenter.org)

October 6, 2016



Cecily Brown, *Combing the Hair (Beach)*, 2015.  
Watercolor, pastel, ink,  
and oil on paper, 79 x 51  
1/2 inches. Courtesy of the  
artist. Photograph by  
Genevieve Hanson.

New York – The Drawing Center presents *Cecily Brown: Rehearsal*, the artist’s first solo museum show in New York and the first exhibition dedicated to her drawings. Arranged thematically, the more than eighty small drawings, large-scale works, and sketchbooks on view foreground Brown’s iterative reworking of motifs from her wide-reaching arsenal of source material—prints by eighteenth-century draftsman William Hogarth, pages from animal clip-art books, and Jimi Hendrix’s 1968 album cover for *Electric Ladyland* are just some of the images that Brown has rendered again and again in her own hand. Curated by Claire Gilman, Senior Curator.

The word “rehearsal,” as derived from the Old French *rehercier*, originally meant to go over something again with the aim of understanding or mastering it. The notion that this repetitive action was geared towards a culminating performance was a later conceit that has obscured the original definition of the word as valuing inquiry in its own right. Rehearsal is a term that, understood in this sense, aptly describes Brown’s drawing practice. Where Brown’s canvases revel in the visceral immediacy of paint, her drawings offer fragmentary motifs that build upon and undo each other. Indeed, what we witness in her sketches is the artist’s desire to envision and render palpable the images that attract and confound her (she has said that she draws what she wants to see). Painstaking and obsessive in their efforts to capture an entire scene or the slightest of gestures—a turn of a lion’s head here, the edge of a Bruegel painting there—Brown’s drawings take the act of looking as their very subject.

## ABOUT CECILY BROWN

Cecily Brown was born in London in 1969 and studied painting at the Slade School of Art before relocating to New York, where she currently resides. Solo exhibitions of Brown's work have been mounted by Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Torino, Italy; GEM, Museum of Contemporary Art, Den Haag, The Netherlands; Kestnergesellschaft, Hanover, Germany; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Des Moines Art Center, Iowa; Modern Art Oxford, UK; Kunsthalle Mannheim, Germany; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid; Museum of Contemporary Art (MACRO), Rome; and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C. She has also been included in group exhibitions at Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Germany; Pinchuk Art Centre, Kiev; and Parasol Unit, London. Brown's work is represented in numerous collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Morgan Library and Museum, New York; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Rubell Family Collection, Miami; and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, where she was included in the 2004 biennial exhibition.

## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

### Thursday, October 27 from 6:30–7:30pm

Join Cecily Brown and Senior Curator Claire Gilman in a walk-through of the exhibition. Attendees will receive a limited-edition coloring book featuring works from the show.

### Thursday, December 1 from 6:30–7:30pm

As part of The Drawing Center's new series *The Artist's Eye*, New York-based artist Terry Winters will lead a walk-through of the exhibition. Well-known for drawings, paintings, and prints that reference systems and spatial fields, Winters's work often develops in series, using repetition to comment on the formal intricacies of visual representation.

*The Artist's Eye* program celebrates the institution's upcoming (2017) 40th anniversary by inviting an artist who has previously shown at The Drawing Center to share his or her perspective on a current exhibition. These artist-led tours provide in-depth consideration of one artist's work by another, highlighting drawing's expansive reach and reinforcing the centrality of the artist's viewpoint to The Drawing Center's mission.

## PUBLICATION

To accompany *Cecily Brown: Rehearsal*, The Drawing Center will produce an edition in the *Drawing Papers* series, which will include full-color illustrations of each piece in the exhibition and essays by Senior Curator Claire Gilman and the painter David Salle.

## CREDITS

*Cecily Brown: Rehearsal* is made possible by support from the James Family Foundation, Nancy and Fred Poses, Jane and Ned Sadaka, and Marlies Verhoeven.

Special thanks to Thomas Dane Gallery.

## ABOUT THE DRAWING CENTER

The Drawing Center, a museum in Manhattan's SoHo district, explores the medium of drawing as primary, dynamic, and relevant to contemporary culture, the future of art, and creative thought. Its activities, which are both multidisciplinary and broadly historical, include exhibitions; Open Sessions, a curated artist program encouraging community and collaboration; the *Drawing Papers* publication series; and education and public programs.

## LOCATION, HOURS & ACCESSIBILITY

35 Wooster Street between Broome and Grand Streets in SoHo, New York.  
Gallery hours are Wednesday-Sunday 12pm–6pm, Thursday, 12pm–8pm.  
Tickets: \$5 Adults, \$3 Students and seniors, Children under 12 are free, and free admission Thursdays 6-8pm.

The Drawing Center is wheelchair accessible.

212.219.2166 | [info@drawingcenter.org](mailto:info@drawingcenter.org) | [drawingcenter.org](http://drawingcenter.org)

FACEBOOK: [The Drawing Center](https://www.facebook.com/TheDrawingCenter)

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TUMBLR: [the-drawing-center.tumblr.com](http://the-drawing-center.tumblr.com)

INSTAGRAM: [@drawingcenter](https://www.instagram.com/drawingcenter)

## AT THE DRAWING CENTER

<i>Cecily Brown: Rehearsal</i>	October 7–December 18, 2016
<i>Olga Chernysheva: Vague Accent</i>	October 7–December 18, 2016
<i>Open Sessions 8</i>	October 7–November 6, 2016
<i>Open Sessions 9</i>	November 18–December 18, 2016
<i>Mateo López: Undo List</i>	January 20–March 19, 2017
<i>Jackson Mac Low</i>	January 20–March 19, 2017
<i>Amy Sillman</i>	January 20–March 19, 2017
<i>Mark Dion: Tropical Research Lab</i>	April 14–June 25, 2017
<i>Open Sessions 10</i>	April 14–June 4, 2017

## Installations

<i>Gary Simmons: Ghost Reels</i>	October 7, 2016–October 2017
<i>Jackie Ferrara: Lines</i>	Through March 2017

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## Images Available for Reproduction

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Cecily Brown, *Combing the Hair (Beach)*, 2015. Watercolor, pastel, ink, and oil on paper, 79 x 51 1/2 inches. Courtesy of the artist. Photograph by Genevieve Hanson.



Cecily Brown, *Strolling Actresses (After Hogarth)*, 2015. Pastel on paper, 51 1/2 x 79 inches. Courtesy of the artist. Photograph by Genevieve Hanson.



Cecily Brown, *Untitled (Ladyland)*, 2012. Watercolor, gouache, and ink, 18 1/8 x 24 inches. Courtesy of the artist. Photograph by Genevieve Hanson.



Cecily Brown, *Untitled (After Bosch and Boldini)*, 2015. Watercolor and pastel on paper, 79 x 51 1/4 inches. Courtesy of the artist. Photograph by Genevieve Hanson.



Cecily Brown, *Untitled (Paradise)*, 2014. Watercolor, ink, and ballpoint pen on paper, 14 1/8 x 20 1/8 inches. Courtesy of the artist. Photograph by Genevieve Hanson.



Cecily Brown, *Untitled (Bestiary)*, 2011. Watercolor on paper, 24 x 18 1/8 inches. Courtesy of the artist. Photograph by Genevieve Hanson.