



Emily Mae Smith, *The Knot*, 2020.
Oil on linen, 30 x 23 inches.

How do you think this work connects to or builds upon the show's larger theme, *myself*?

My paintings in the exhibition — titled *The Knot* and *Live Forever* — both represent states of flux or transformation.

What do you think is the role of an artist in 2020?

The scale and range of what has been popularly understood as art represents a tiny sliver of what we know is human subjectivity. It's time we break all that open, glean and repurpose what we can, build aliens, run toward otherness with glee.

How has your understanding of "self" shifted this year, especially under such unprecedented circumstances?

I've been working on dismantling the fortress of self.