In The Front Room, three artists explore the boundaries of representation through painting. Scottish-born, London-based artist Christopher Orr’s meticulously painted pictures are derived entirely from extant media: vintage magazines, Ladybird storybooks, science textbooks, Old Master paintings, newspaper articles, and found slides. Testing the objectivity of scientific depictions, photographs, diagrams, and paintings, his eclectic style and content combine competing perspectives of different histories. Amsterdam-based artist Rezi van Lankveld presents her oil on board paintings as anxious objects. Emotionally charged scenes and figures emerge from droplets and swirled marbled paint, whose figures and muted palette nod at nineteenth century Dutch painting—while remaining phantasmagoric, and utterly ambiguous. New York-based artist J. Parker Valentine works on paper and rough MDF panels, making bold gesture drawings with chunks of graphite, oil pastel, and ink. Interested in the relationships between media, architecture as psychological space, and man’s physical, connection to the earth, Valentine’s process reveals dynamic and often violent abstractions, as well as feral animal forms.
Christopher Orr was born in Helensburgh, Scotland in 1967; he lives and works in London. His paintings have been exhibited at Dundee Contemporary Arts; Witte de With, Rotterdam; Tate Britain, London; La Galerie, Contemporary Art Centre, Noisy-le-Sec, France; Centre d’art Contemporain, Meymac, France; Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt; and the Royal College of Art, London; among others.

Rezi van Lankveld was born in 1973 in Almelo, The Netherlands, and she lives and works in Amsterdam. She has exhibited work at Museum Van Loon, Amsterdam; GEM, museum voor actuele kunst, The Hague; Museum Kunst Palast, Dusseldorf; and Gallery 400, University of Chicago, among others throughout England and the Netherlands.

J. Parker Valentine was born in 1980 in Austin, Texas, and she currently lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. Her work has been presented in galleries throughout the U.S., and she has exhibited at Artists Space, New York and the University of Texas at Austin. This will be her first museum exhibition.

**Image:**

Rezi van Lankveld  
*Listen, 2007*  
Oil on board, 24.8 x 23.62 inches  

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