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SOHO20

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## Member Exhibition

### **Petra Nimtz: *Everything Is the Same, Nothing Is the Same***

September 18 - October 12, 2015

**Opening Receptions: Fri. September 18, 6-9PM**

SOHO20 is pleased to present *Everything Is the Same, Nothing Is the Same*, a solo exhibition of works by Petra Nimtz, the artist's second exhibition as a member of the gallery, and the opening of SOHO20's new location in Bushwick.

Nimtz came to painting later in life after departing from Germany, her native country, where she felt stifled by the seriousness of the culture. It wasn't until 2004 when she immigrated to Canada that she finally picked up a brush, finding her muse within abstract expressionism. Since then, Nimtz's works have been an exploration in intuitive abstractions. Using her left, non-dominant hand to paint, she elucidates the experience of creation through gestural strokes, using her eye to direct, and her hand to resist the formulaic gestures of muscle memory. It is through this relative lack of control where the radiant tension in her paintings begins.

Whether because she came to it later in life, or because it is latent in her nature, Nimtz's work is filled with a refreshing, childlike naivety - privileging the interplay on the painted surface as the primary focus. Although forms and gestures will naturally repeat, Nimtz reacts individually and step by step to each moment, allowing the image within to create its own ecology of shape and color. In one body of work shown in this exhibition, Nimtz paints over found childhood drawings, in an anachronistic collaboration with her younger self. Using collage, oils and house paint, Nimtz will repeatedly paint or print over an image, leaving ghosts of previous forms, while still allowing the entire surface to remain light and unmuddled. Between the figure/ground relationships and each work's title, we gather hints of her oblique narratives, ambiguously situated between popular culture and personal experience.

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