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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Helwaser Gallery presents: *Emma Coyle : The Best Revenge*

Exhibition Dates: **July 21, 2022 - September 3, 2022**

Helwaser Gallery is pleased to present *Emma Coyle: The Best Revenge*, the first solo exhibition in New York by the Irish artist. Emma Coyle (b. 1981) creates vibrant, graphic paintings of women that utilize the visual languages of advertising, magazines, and fashion. In this exhibition, Coyle will debut ten large-scale recent paintings of stylish, confident women.

Working in London since 2006, Coyle's technicolor paintings reference — and depart from — the historic conventions of pop art. Through bold contours and pastel palettes, Coyle depicts her assured subjects posing for the viewer. Dignified and fashionable, these women are no longer reflected through the lens of the male gaze. While honoring Warhol, Wesselmann, and Rosenquist's use of mass-media imagery and commercial techniques, Coyle offers colorful and optimistic icons of a brave future.

Coyle's works embrace a tension between the painterly and the mechanical. Her retro-futurist images pop with bold, black outlines that evoke Japanese Manga panels or the floating worlds of *ukiyo-e* prints. In each painting, her influencers and models swagger and strut in a flat, monochrome world, commanding the picture plane and the viewer's eye. Coyle's figures are rendered flat and with minimal depth, edging the paintings into the realm of abstraction.

For instance, in *12.16.02*, a model with a blond updo confronts the viewer's gaze from behind orange sunglasses. Coyle's subject tempts with a tuft of cotton candy, red lipstick, and mouth ever so slightly ajar. Coyle tightly crops the picture's composition to enhance the visual energy and sense of drama. In *Linda no. 3*, Coyle offers a full-scale portrait of a woman in a lemon dress, with scarlet opera gloves and white heels, caught in a moment of defiant gesticulation. "Living well is the best revenge," so an old proverb goes, a saying that Coyle's subjects embody, refusing to be constrained by the male gaze.

Coyle's paintings engage with Helwaser Gallery's longstanding role as supporters and promoters of global Pop artists. Coyle's work becomes a contemporary lens through which to more completely understand the historical implications of Pop Art.

### **About the Artist:**

Emma Coyle is a mid-career painter who graduated in 2003 from National College of Art and Design, Dublin Ireland. Recognized early in her career with funding awards and reviews, Coyle continues to push her practice, exploring the boundaries of painting at the scale of installation. Trained in painting, drawing, photography, and ceramics, Coyle's process fuses techniques from these different fabrication methods.

Prior to Coyle's most recent exhibition at London's Marylebone Gallery, her paintings have been featured on the cover of international publications including Emergo (Netherlands), LITRO (UK), and Kapa magazine (Greece). Coyle's work has been published in London's Mayfair Times, The Times, A5, and The FLUX Review.

### **About the Gallery:**

Based along Madison Avenue, Helwaser Gallery presents mid-career and established artists, including Anton Ginzburg, Boedi Widjaja, Christina Kruse, and Lin Yan. It also specializes in the work of post-war masters, such as Tom Wesselmann, Alexander Calder, Adolph Gottlieb, and Helen Frankenthaler, among others. Founded in Paris in 1986, the gallery has initiated significant exhibitions, including a retrospective on Jean Dubuffet (1996), and presentations on French cubist masters, notably Georges Braque, Jean Metzinger, and Pablo Picasso. In 2008, Helwaser Gallery marked its inaugural relocation to New York with the group exhibition Red, which presented works by Hans Hofmann, Andy Warhol, and Jean-Michel Basquiat. In 2019, Helwaser Gallery reopened its present space with a public exhibition program, presenting internationally recognized artists. The gallery program emphasizes a dialogue between contemporary art, and modern art historical movements and contexts.

**Helwaser**  
Gallery

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