

# MARVIN GARDENS

1534 DECATUR STREET, RIDGEWOOD, NY 11385

## PAULA LAWRIE

*High Socks, New Jersey 1950*



Marvin Gardens is pleased to announce the opening of *High Socks, New Jersey 1950*, This is the first solo show in New York of Paula Lawrie (b. 1945). Displayed is a suite of 36 original works on paper, accompanied by corresponding text weaving a narrative through the drawings. Marvin Gardens has collaborated with Pacific Books to release a book of these works alongside this exhibition.

In *High Socks, New Jersey, 1950*, Lawrie presents her own poignant and evocative glimpse into what it meant to be growing up as a female Jewish child in 1950s New Jersey. The work details her everyday encounters with anti-Semitism, and her search for answers from these confusing and isolating experiences. What emerges is an emotional and tender story that is at once the story of a child trying to make sense of a bewildering world, and a woman trying look back and retrieve some wonder apart from the pain.

Through the architecture of the narrative, a surreal landscape pours out. Abundant details of shading, pattern, and abstraction of figures coalesce into visually inventive and emotive characters. The emotions expressed by these drawn characters are readily identifiable, resonating with the viewers on multiple levels. The story ends with Lawrie in high school, having moved from New Jersey to New Haven, Connecticut where she finds a community that is a little more accommodating, though not without its own betrayals. A key difference in the new town is her own maturity, having grown into and realized the power of her own agency.

Although actively making work for the past 30 years Paula Lawrie has managed to remain hidden in plain sight. In the 1980s and 1990s she actively exhibited in cafes along the West coast, sometimes at a speed as great as two shows per month. In 1993, she took up a position as artist-in-residence at the Mission Science Workshop, San Francisco, where she made a small number of educational zines. Lawrie continues her inventive and prolific output of drawings and paintings to this day in Berkley, California.

For additional information or to schedule an appointment to view the exhibition please contact: [hannah@marvin-gardens.org](mailto:hannah@marvin-gardens.org)