

# Valérie Blass Pushes Figuration at Catriona Jeffries Gallery

Catriona Jeffries Gallery, Vancouver, November 21, 2015, to January 9, 2016

JANUARY 4, 2016

BY [KARINA IRVINE](#)



Montreal-based artist [Valérie Blass](#)'s inaugural exhibition at [Catriona Jeffries Gallery](#) in Vancouver works to combine, layer, adjust and fold materiality with figuration. In “To only ever say one thing forever the same thing,” the focus on the body and movement forms a direct relationship with sculpture, painting and photography.

The interplay of mediums with the body or bodies—stretching, dancing, overlapping or making love—evinces sensuality and humour. The sculpture *Flat man/J'en ai assez je dis oui* (2015) portrays the simplified contours of a male figure where, on the opposite side of the sculpture, the images of three naked men are revealed in a balanced formation as if to compensate for the figure's proportions. *High-up, dignitary, panjandrum, high muckamuck* (2015) reveals a three-dimensional effect as a two-dimensional image of a figure protrudes outwards through the layering of painted sculptural forms mimicking his pose.

Blass reveals and conceals a hybridization of forms to create a provocative dialogue between the body and the material. Both the viewer's movement throughout the space and representations of the body work to morph a perceptual awareness into a material realm.