

# CUE

ART FOUNDATION

**Sarah Canright**

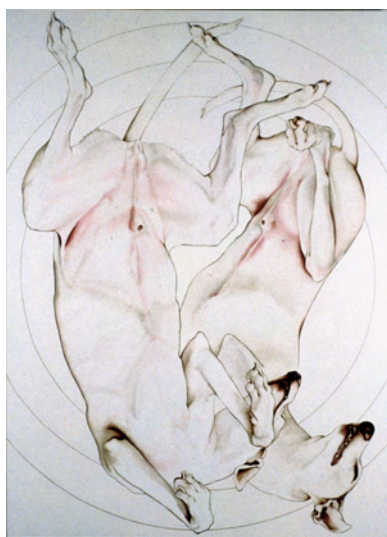
Curated by Nic Nicosia

**November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011 – January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

*(Opening reception Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm)*

“I imagine she works on a painting or a drawing every day because she has to, needs to, and because the idea will not go away until it’s realized and the working doesn’t stop until it’s “right”...The inherent beauty and the density of the emotions that her paintings emit makes them as memorable as anything I have seen.”

—Nic Nicosia



*State of Grace, 2007*  
Oil on canvas, 90" x 75"

The work of Austin-based artist, Sarah Canright is an exercise in visual and conceptual fluidity. Occupying a space firmly rooted in painting and drawing, her work finds great pleasure in the stroke of the brush, and much use for the strong, clear lines of drawing. Canright began her career in abstraction, despite being loosely associated with the Chicago Imagists in the 70’s. However, her work has come to demonstrate a complex flexibility between the abstract and the figurative that allows her to create, as Canright states, “an inviting tactility, feeling out the surface, creating with paint the visual experience of physical presence.”

Canright’s newest project, on view here at CUE Art Foundation for her first solo show in New York City in over twenty-five years, is a definite departure from her past work, yet continues to beautifully illustrate her skill at uniquely bridging both visual and emotional elements in highly engaging ways. Following the death of her greyhound, Canright began creating portraits of her dogs and cats. Placed in contorted, twisted poses, and often

with mouths open and eyes closed, it is not immediately clear whether they are depictions of animals in deep states of relaxation, or instances of something more macabre. This uncertainty creates ample space for them to function as intimate reflections on mortality and vulnerability. At the same time, however, Canright’s controlled, highly specific brushstrokes pay a great deal of attention to these lithe animals’ writhing muscles, exposed teeth, and outstretched claws, suggesting an underlying power and dynamism within. The muted palette used by Canright hinders any differentiation between specific subjects in each piece, as well as within the whole series, leading the viewer to focus more on the repetition of lines, shapes and tones. The selective details, non-existent backgrounds and disoriented perspectives speak of her relation to abstraction, while at the same time underlining the figures’ sense of movement as the forms shift and twist from different points of view.

Canright’s style is highly poetic: it invites long, studied viewing of the work, while at the same time providing ample flexibility in interpretation. These beautiful renderings, while initially highly specific to the artist, serve as eloquent metaphors for universal concerns such as love, attachment and the preciousness and frailty of life.



*His Song, 2010*  
Oil on canvas, 78" x 42"

**(More, over)**

For additional information, please contact Ryan Thomas, Programs Coordinator, CUE Art Foundation, 212-206-3583, or email [ryan.thomas@cueartfoundation.org](mailto:ryan.thomas@cueartfoundation.org)

Free catalogues available.

### **ARTIST'S BIO:**

Sarah Canright graduated from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and began showing with the Chicago Imagists in the late 1960's. In 1972, she moved to New York. In the 1980's she began splitting her year between New York and Texas, and in the mid-1990's, accepted a full-time teaching position at the University of Texas at Austin. Throughout her career, she has been awarded three National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship Grants and a New York State Council for the Arts Grant. During the 1970's and 1980's, she was represented by the Pam Adler Gallery in New York City and the Phyllis Kind Gallery in Chicago. She has exhibited her books at Franklin Furnace in New York City and was included in the 1975 Whitney Biennial. This exhibition marks Canright's first solo show in New York City in over twenty-five years.

### **About CUE:**

CUE Art Foundation is a non-profit arts organization dedicated to promoting culture by supporting the creativity of under-recognized visual artists by offering comprehensive arts education programming for artists and students, and interdisciplinary arts events for public audiences.

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