

Marina Adams
Curated by Norma Cole

October 16 – November 29, 2008
(Opening reception Thursday, October 16, 6:00 – 8:00pm)

“The compositional puzzle, edges of lines without lines, comic foot, flip the camouflage—compassionate brushwork, masterful, humble, that is, proud exuberance. Brooding vocabulary of richness overlays uncommon commonness.”

—Norma Cole

Interior Moves, 2008
Acrylic on linen
60" x 72"



Stories of sensuality and passion play out on the surfaces of New York-based painter Marina Adams' canvases. Yet in addition to the visceral quality of her work, intellectual sentiments become apparent with patient contemplation. Much like an expert on the art of flirtation, nothing is ever overt. Expansive fields of flat, vibrant colors compete with one another, advancing and retreating like an abstract puzzle, bringing to mind images of camouflage. The contrasting pigments shift from opaque to transparent, postponing the viewer's clear comprehension of the figurative depiction underneath, requiring a certain sense of patience and focus from the viewer. What comes into focus are patchworks of delicate lines, insinuating the curves of legs, feet and hands, writhing across the canvas

and melting into one another until they become indiscernible. Referencing Eastern erotic imagery, the paintings of Western Post-Impressionists like Matisse and the *Camouflage* prints of Andy Warhol, Adams' works are assemblages of divergent cultures, mores and aesthetics, underlining the old adage that opposites attract.

While the incorporation of so many diverse visual elements could very easily lead to a formal chaos, Adams' work avoids such disjuncture. Through the initially perceived competition between the abstract color fields and figurative lines comes a sense of clarity and union. Much like the bodies coupling along the canvas, the two visual elements begin to meld and morph into one another, the patterns taking on organic forms and the figures blending into elegant abstract designs. Adams' work underlines the relational character of all bodies of thought and practice through the depiction of human relationships at their most basic, universal level. Having often collaborated with poets throughout her career, Adams' work shares a similar sentiment. There is an undeniable rhythm to her compositions and it is through this rhythm that such intellectual substance makes itself present.

On view at CUE Art Foundation, Adams' first solo show in New York, will be 5-6 examples of her most recent work. That artist's large canvases beg the viewer to take their time and promise in return a lyrical pleasure for both the eye and the mind.



Walk About, 2008
Acrylic on canvas
48" x 48"

(More, over)

For additional information, please contact Ryan White, Programs Assistant, CUE Art Foundation, 212-206-3583, or email ryan.white@cueartfoundation.org

Exhibition-related Programming:

Friday, October 17th, 6:30pm

This event is FREE but RSVPs required

Email ryan.white@cueartfoundation.org or call 212-206-3583.

Exhibition Curator, Norma Cole, will read a selection of poetry from her body of work.

ARTIST'S BIO:

Marina Adams received her BFA from the Tyler School of Art, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA and MFA from Columbia University's School of the Arts, New York, NY. Adams has lived extensively in Europe and had a one-person exhibition at Magazzino d'Arte Moderna in Rome, Italy. Her work has been included in numerous group exhibitions in the United States and Italy, including Roebing Hall, Brooklyn, NY; Exit Art, New York, NY; Art in General, New York, NY; Arte Architectura Moderna, Rome, Italy and Sala Uno Galleria, Rome, Italy. In 2007, she co-curated and participated in the group show, *Sex in the City*, D.U.M.B.O. Arts Center, Brooklyn, NY. She is an Assistant Professor of Art at the Borough of Manhattan Community College and has taught at Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT; Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI; Cornell University, Rome, Italy and Pratt Institute of Art, Brooklyn, NY. She has collaborated with the poet Norma Cole on the recent publication *In Our Own Backyard* and has a collaborative book with the poet Leslie Scalapino titled, *The Tango* (Granary Books, 2001).

About CUE:

CUE Art Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit forum for contemporary art and cultural exchange that provides opportunities and resources for under-recognized artists. We value the astonishing diversity of creativity that artists provide and the importance of their activity in the social context of the city.

CUE provides artists, students, scholars and art professionals resources at many stages of their careers and creative lives. Our programs include exhibitions, studio residencies, publications, professional development seminars, educational outreach, symposia, readings, concerts and performances. Since 2002, we have operated from our 4,500 square foot storefront venue in the heart of New York's Chelsea Arts District.

CUE exhibiting artists are chosen by their peers and a rotating group of advisors and curators from across the country. This pluralistic process ensures that CUE consistently offers diverse viewpoints from multiple disciplines of artistic practice.

Simply put, we give artists their CUE to take center stage in the challenging world of art.

Major program support is provided by The Accademia Charitable Foundation, Ltd., The Viking Foundation, Agnes Gund and Daniel Shapiro, The Pollock-Krasner Foundation, The Greenwall Foundation, The Foundation for Contemporary Arts, The Joan Mitchell Foundation, Holland & Knight Charitable Foundation, Inc., Milton & Sally Avery Arts Foundation, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and New York State Council on the Arts (a State Agency).

