

Cynthia Miller

Curated by Ron Silliman

April 24 – May 31, 2008

Opening Reception Thursday, April 24, 6:00 – 8:00pm

“The objects envisioned are simple – quail, a tea kettle, a flower pot – but seldom used simply. Rather, like the blue deer, the red pony or the red and yellow birds, each is cast so as to let in many possible connotations.”

—Ron Silliman

With a combination of poetic symbolism and a rich color-palette, Arizona-based artist Cynthia Miller creates work that is both visually engaging and emotionally contemplative. The viewer quickly finds themselves on an exotic journey through colors, sights and movements in her imaginative landscapes and fanciful figures. The flattened perspectives and non-local colors hark back to the work of such post-impressionist painters as Gauguin and Cézanne as well as Fauvist work by Matisse and Derain, but with a distinctively “American” slant.



Out West, 2006
Acrylic, chalk and oil pastels with oil paintstick
on paper
15” x 44”

Miller states that she “examines the language of painting in the immediacy of daily life.” Pulling inspiration from William Morris’ wallpaper, Guatemalan poetry, Ukrainian Folk art and Native American textiles, her mainly horizontal paintings are as layered in influence as they are in elements of acrylic paint, chalk, oil paintsticks and graphite. As seen in *Out West* (top right), the artist’s work has a distinctly Southwestern flavor, using natural recurring motifs such as antlers, birds and pomegranates to concoct nostalgic images of the range. There is an overwhelming sense of transience, as within one piece there oftentimes comes a shift between seasons or hours in the day, the composition leading the viewer’s eye off the canvas to muse about what lies beyond the horizon. Adding oil paintsticks to her creative repertoire and pairing them with chalk, she is able to create pieces like *Americas* (left) that are as bright in color as they are diverse in texture. The cool colors embolden the bright textural detailing to truly shimmer on the canvas, reminding the viewer of a desert sunrise.

Americas from the Monsoon Series, 2006
Acrylic, chalk and oil pastels with oil paintstick
on paper
32” x 30”



On view at CUE Art Foundation, Cynthia Miller’s first solo exhibition in New York City, are 14 paintings that showcase the artist’s work from the past decade. The progression of her art tells not only a story of the American Southwest, but the emotive and universal concepts of the passing of time.

(More, over)

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

Accompanying Public Program:

words+music: A poetry reading with exhibition curator Ron Silliman and Charles Alexander and musical performance by James Fei on saxophones and electronics.

Friday, April 25, 6:30pm

CUE Art Foundation, 511 West 25th Street, Admission FREE / RSVPs required.

Call 212-206-3583 or email ryan.white@cueartfoundation.org to reserve a seat.

ARTIST'S BIO:

Cynthia Miller was born in Fond du Lac, WI. She has lived primarily in the Southwest Sonoran Desert since moving there as a child with her family in 1963. She studied creative writing, then painting, at the University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ and the San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, CA. In addition to thirty years of painting, past works include sculptural installations such as *Yaqui Goes to LA* at the Scottsdale Center for the Arts, Scottsdale, AZ in the early 1980s; collaborations on dance theatre projects with the Orts Theatre of Dance, Tucson, AZ; and ongoing book arts works with Chax Press. She has been teaching studio art to children and adults in the Tucson area for over twenty years and currently teaches for The Drawing Studio and for The Learning Curve, an independent Arts & Humanities forum. Her recognitions include the Arizona Arts Award and a Painting Fellowship from the Arizona Commission on the Arts. A member of the Tucson Artist Group (TAG) and Tucson Poetry Group (POG), she shares a studio and life with husband and poet Charles Alexander and their two daughters. The exhibition at CUE Art Foundation marks Miller's first solo show in New York.

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.

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