

CUE

ART FOUNDATION

ROBERT SUSSMAN

APRIL 22 – MAY 29, 2004

“Sussman is a sophisticated painter and as knowledgeable about art as any artist I know. He has a very special take on art, slightly distanced and really amused by it.”

- Thomas Nozkowski
Exhibition Curator

Having been a long-time observer of Sussman’s work, the decision by fellow painter Thomas Nozkowski to select the artist for exhibition at CUE soon became the obvious choice. Sussman had recently undergone a cathartic process, which reaffirmed his dedication to painting, resulting in a new series of acrylic paintings replete with striking, fabulous odd color combinations and complex shapes. For Nozkowski, these mesmerizing compositions constituted an exceptional performance primed for unveiling.

The dynamic between freedom of artistic interpretation and deliberate, formal application has always been a factor in Sussman’s process of painting. Part of the human condition is to be a little out of sync and throughout the artist’s new series, a delicate interplay occurs between the deliberate rectilinearity of his chosen forms and the playful spontaneity of his biomorphic shapes and high-keyed colors. While these polarities exist, there is also a great deal of specificity in what Sussman allows to inhabit his paintings. Imagery drawn from the natural sciences, architecture, typography, maps, and from other artists, engages in a complex dialogue of conflicting and resolving elements.



Untitled, 2004
Acrylic on panel, 24" x 36"



Untitled, 2003
Acrylic on panels, 36" x 48"

Many of the flat frontal shapes used in Sussman’s paintings play with the ‘almost being’ quality of his narrative in which meaning oscillates and resonates, in order to free the viewer’s own interpretive and personal associations. Sussman’s new work embraces in a greater sense the metaphysical narrative drawn from his own experiences, which have been culled by forces ranging from the energetic-synergetic geometry of Buckminster Fuller to an intuitive awareness of an omni-present “invisible thread.”

When approaching a primed canvas, Sussman may begin with a highly specific experience, expressing the feeling of tension implied in it through the placement of linear elements or conveying it through the thickness and thinness of brushstroke and through the impact of gesture. Equally elusive and specific at the same time, color considerations also live in a state of flux.

At some point certain artists discover a need to express themselves more emphatically; for Sussman this sense of urgency has led him to a renewed faith in veracity of color, form, and composition.

Robert Sussman was born in the Bronx, New York, in 1943. He studied at the Art Students League, the Brooklyn Museum Art School, New York University, and The Cooper Union. During the seventies, he helped establish the Anonymous Artists of America Cattle Ranch Inc., an artists' commune in Red Wing, Colorado. After returning to New York, his work was shown in numerous exhibitions in the U.S. and Canada. From 1985 to 1989 he was a member and president of 55 Mercer Street Gallery, a cooperative gallery in New York's SoHo district. During the late eighties and early nineties, he taught at the Parsons School of Design. In 1990 he participated in the Triangle Artists Workshop in Rhinebeck, New York.

Accompanying Public Program:

Friday May 21st, 6:30 - 8pm

Readings by Siri Hustvedt and Nelly Reifler

Siri Hustvedt, renowned poet and novelist, is author of *The Blindfold*, *The Enchantment of Lily Dahl* and *What I Loved*, her most recent novel from which she will read for this event. Nelly Reifler was awarded a grant by The Rotunda Gallery in 2001 to curate *What Happened in Lime Mills?* Reifler will read from her recent book, *See Through: Short Stories*, a collection of works published in September 2003.

Open to the Public. Free Admission.

For additional information, please contact Jeremy Adams, Gallery Director / Sandhini Poddar, Gallery Assistant, CUE Art Foundation, (212) 206-3583.

ABOUT CUE:

CUE Art Foundation, a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization, provides educational and professional development programs in the visual arts. These include student internships, stipends, exhibitions, public lectures, and an in-gallery studio program, all of which draw from the talents and experience of the diverse community of artists, art critics, and teachers that the Foundation brings together.

CUE's exhibition season gives unknown or under-recognized artists public and professional exposure comparable to that offered by neighboring commercial galleries, without the usual financial restraints. The Advisory Council, an honorary group of artists and leading figures from the arts education, applied arts, art history, and literary communities, has the responsibility of selecting exhibition curators. The curators, in turn, nominate artists to exhibit at CUE, and continue to play a role throughout the exhibition process. Both the Advisory Council and the exhibition curators actively participate in the public lectures and educational programs.