

C H R I S S H A R P

Altoon Sultan

Paintings

September 11 to October 16, 2021

Work List

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Chris Sharp is pleased to present a solo exhibition of the Vermont-based artist Altoon Sultan.

A formalist in the classical sense, Altoon Sultan is an artist who is interested in composition, color, spatial relationships, and light. No matter what she has depicted, whether it be Victorian architecture or modern agricultural landscapes, what she creates is deeply engaged in long-standing discussions of form, line, representation and even abstraction. Having originally studied with Philip Pearlstein and Lois Dodd in the late 60s and early 70s, she comes from a tradition of realism whose interest in capturing perceived reality is second only to its stringent, vivid and precise interpretation of it. What is more, if she is working in the legacy of modernism, it has more to do with the likes of Ellsworth Kelly than any kind of Greenbergian purity, in that although she might insist on the primacy of form, what she portrays is thoroughly embedded in our shared, everyday reality.

For her exhibition at Chris Sharp Gallery, Sultan presents a series of recent egg tempera paintings on calfskin parchment. In keeping with her interest in industrial farming and the production of food, the imagery in the work consists of details of agricultural implements and machinery. Isolated and zeroed-in upon, the portrayed details uncannily withdraw into illusory approximations of pure form, like so many lines, angles and circles. It is as if this essential, but often unseen production (farming) was, through Sultan's small, tightly focused windows, at once revealed and, paradoxically, restored to the relative abstraction in which it exists for most of us. At once straightforward and strange, her compact, exquisitely crafted pictures possess a bracingly luminous, jewel-like quality; they are the hard-won result of decades of the daily habit of painting which testify to an artist at the height of her powers.

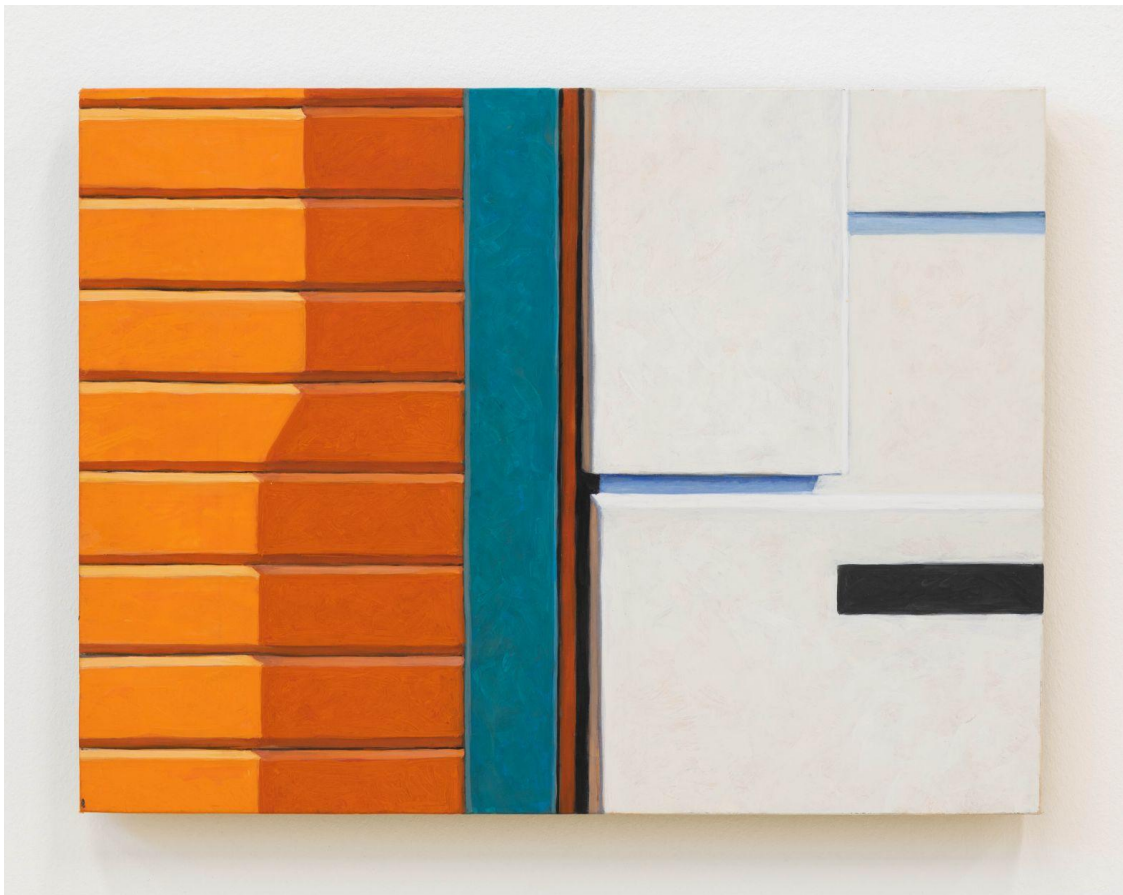
Altoon Sultan (b. 1948, Brooklyn, New York) lives and works in Groton, Vermont. Having had her first solo exhibition at Marlborough Gallery, New York, in 1977, she went on to have many solo shows in NYC, at Marlborough and at Tibor de Nagy and throughout the United States over more than 40 years. Sultan's work has been included in numerous group shows including many at museums such as the National Museum of Women in the Arts, the Philbrook Museum of Art, the Hood Museum, the Fleming Museum, the San Francisco Museum of Art, and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Awards include two National Endowment for the Arts grants, an Academy Award in Art from the American Academy, and a medal for painting from the National Academy of Design, where she was elected a member in 1995. Her work can be found in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; the Yale University Art Gallery; the Library of Congress; and the Fleming Museum of the University of Vermont. She is currently represented by McKenzie Fine Art, New York.



Bars and Oval, 2021. Egg tempera on calfskin parchment, 11 x 10 ½ in (27.94 x 26.67 cm)



White Rectangles, 2021. Egg tempera on calfskin parchment, 11 ¼ x 9 in (28.57 x 22.86 cm)



Red Stripes, 2021. Egg tempera on calfskin parchment, 9 x 12 in (22.86 x 30.48 cm)



Green Scoops, 2021. Egg tempera on calfskin parchment, 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ in (20.95 x 27.3 cm)



Blue and Black Curves, 2021. Egg tempera on calfskin parchment, 10 ½ x 9 in (26.67 x 22.86 cm)



Tilted Cylinder, 2019. Egg tempera on calfskin parchment, 10 ¼ x 12 in (26 x 30.48 cm)