Mary Ann Aitken 3/3/13 — 4/14/13

Mary Ann Aitken's career spanned over three decades, in which she produced paintings and works on paper. On view at Cleopatra's is a series of abstract paintings produced mostly in 2010. While Aitken's paintings weave in and out of varying subjects, her voice and mark-making remained consistent throughout. Aitken's 'matter of fact' style, creating picture-poems of middle class landscapes reflect an upbringing and time studying painting in the Cass Corridor - Detroit. In the early 1990's she re-located to Brooklyn, NY where she continued making work until her death in 2012. Aitken's paintings look at real life and rarely touch upon metaphysical symbolism. She utilizes simplified (obscured) details combined with a visual weight of material - heavy applications of oil paint and some works built from road tar and debris. The work is aptly situated in a contemporary context of middle ground.

Mary Ann Aitken, b. Detroit, MI, 1960, d. New York, NY, 2012. This exhibition has been realized with the help of Aitken's family, and her life-long friend Ed Fraga.

Installation Views, Photos: Marc Tatti

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