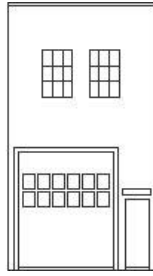


Susan Hobbs



Press Release

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Beth Stuart

DAMMA Paintings V1: Dependent Origination

Toronto, ON – Opening on 17 October and running until 23 November, the gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of new work by Beth Stuart.

In 16th century BCE, the settlement of Akrotiri (modern-day Santorini, Greece) was destroyed by a devastating earthquake followed by a volcanic eruption. The town—and its vibrant frescoes—were blanketed in metres-thick layers of ash. Digs in the 1960s and '70s unearthed remarkably well preserved depictions of abstract shapes, scenes from everyday life, and various fauna including cerulean monkeys gathering crocuses and saffron in veneration for their beloved priestesses. Covering the walls of nearly every building, these works were enjoyed across all classes of society, not just the wealthy elite.

Working through the material practice, histories, and restoration of these and other frescoes, *DAMMA Paintings V1: Dependent Origination*, offers a suite of new paintings alongside other recent works made from Venetian plaster and pigment. According to the artist, who has worked extensively with the medium, it “has many of the same properties as what is used to make fresco. It comes to life when it is pushed, layered and polished. Heat and pressure turn it into something like stone again. It is not applied, it is layered and built....” Made from ground marble dust and lime, it gives an illusion of depth and texture when applied as an architectural finish.

While Stuart’s work purposefully tests the viewer’s capacity to decipher, certain images begin to surface with time and attention. In addition to the Akrotiri remnants described above, the paintings loosely reference iconography from the outside ring of the Tibetan Buddhist Dharma Wheel. Called the cycle of Dependent Origination, this zone describes the causality of being: if this is, that is; if this ceases to be, that also ceases to be. And so, correspondingly, the plaster comes from limestone and returns to limestone—to become again what it was before.

Beth Stuart (born 1979 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan) lives and works in Toronto. Her work has been shown at The Power Plant, Toronto (2018); Anna Leonowens Gallery, Halifax (2017); Battat Contemporary, Montréal (2017); Esker Foundation, Calgary (2014); and Galerie de l'UQAM, Montréal (2013). *Reube (V. Stepanova and M. Vionnet)* is a recently completed commission in the Don River Valley Park, Toronto. Her work has been written about in Frieze Magazine, Mousse Magazine, Canadian Art, and Border Crossings. She has published critical texts in C Magazine and Canadian Art. Artist residences include Skowhegan; La Cité des Arts, Paris; NSCAD; Open Studio; and The Banff Centre. Beth’s work can be found in private, corporate and public collections, including Banque Nationale du Canada, Montréal; Royal Bank of Canada, Toronto; Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto; Bank of Montreal, Toronto; TD Bank Group, Toronto; and Giverny Capital, Montréal. She holds a BFA from Concordia and a MFA from University of Guelph.

Susan Hobbs Gallery is open to the public Wednesday to Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and by appointment. The gallery is located at 137 Tecumseth Street, Toronto.

For more information about this exhibition or the Susan Hobbs Gallery, please give us a call at (416) 504.3699 or visit www.susanhobbs.com.

Susan Hobbs Gallery

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