

May | August 2014

IMPRESSIONS

A BAROQUE SENSIBILITY

beauty reigns

IN RECENT PAINTING

Beauty Reigns: A Baroque Sensibility in Recent Painting assembles the work of 13 intergenerational emerging and mid-career abstract painters working in studios across the United States. Among the shared characteristics found in this highly diverse group, in whole or part, are high-key color, layering of surface imagery, use of overall and repeated patterns, stylized motifs, fragmented representation, and a tension between melancholy and the sublime. To date, little focus has been placed on works which celebrate the exoticism, exuberance, and optimism found in the work of these painters or that of the numerous others moving in similar directions.

The exhibition surveys works by artists with both national and international perspectives. Americans Annette Davidek, Nancy Lorenz, and Ryan McGinness are based in New York. Charles Burwell lives and works in Pennsylvania; Paul Henry Ramirez in New Jersey; Rex Ray in California; Rosalyn Schwartz in Illinois; and Susan Chrysler White in Iowa. Global visual vocabularies are expressed in works by Jose Alvarez (D.O.P.A.), born in Venezuela and based in Florida; Kamrooz Aram, Iran/New York; Jiha Moon, South Korea/Georgia; Fausto Fernandez, born in Texas, raised in Mexico, and currently based in California; and Beatriz Milhazes, a Brazilian native who continues to live and work in her home country.

BEAUTY REIGNS ARTISTS

Jose Alvarez (D.O.P.A.)	Beatriz Milhazes
Kamrooz Aram	Jiha Moon
Charles Burwell	Paul Henry Ramirez
Annette Davidek	Rex Ray
Fausto Fernandez	Rosalyn Schwartz
Nancy Lorenz	Susan Chrysler White
Ryan McGinness	

Organized by the McNay's Chief Curator/Curator of Art after 1945, René Paul Barilleaux, *Beauty Reigns* is accompanied by an illustrated book that includes essays by Lilly Wei and Stephen Westfall. These essays contextualize the various artists' approaches to abstract painting, tracing their roots in twentieth- and twenty-first century art. Biographical and interpretative texts on each of the artists are authored by Barilleaux. The book, *Beauty Reigns*, reflects the dynamic nature of the exhibition in its visual aesthetic, expands the imagery seen in the museum, and offers a larger window into the work of these artists and their individual approaches to painting.

This exhibition is organized by the McNay Art Museum.

The Semmes Foundation, Inc. is generously providing lead sponsorship.

Major supporters are Mary Beth and Jack Williamson (a gift of the James Family Charitable Fund of the San Antonio Area Foundation), the Flora Crichton Visiting Artist Fund, the Ewing Haisell Foundation Endowment for Visiting Artists, the Director's Circle, and the Host Committee.

Additional funding is generously provided by members of the Beautiful People.

Adjacent: Kamrooz Aram, *Incident at Varick and Harrison (Palimpsest #23)*, 2013. Oil, oil pastel, and wax pencil on canvas. Courtesy of the artist and Green Art Gallery, Dubai.

Page 6: Jiha Moon, *Pied de Grue* (detail), 2012. Ink, acrylic, fabric, and embroidery patches on Hanji paper. Courtesy of the artist and RYAN LEE, New York.

MEMBERS-ONLY PREVIEW AND RECEPTION

Tuesday, June 10, 5:30-8:00 pm