

SUSAN HAUPTMAN IREN

## IRENE PIJOAN RICHARD SHEEHAN





Main Gallery - Fort Mason Campus - Pier 2

Wednesday – Sunday 11am–7pm • Closed Monday + Tuesday

### SUSAN HAUPTMAN IRENE PIJOAN RICHARD SHEEHAN

January 2–February 3, 2019



How art stands the test of time and lives on after the artist has died is a premise that A+, works by Susan Hauptman, Irene Pijoan and Richard Sheehan demonstrates. Art definitely lives on.

The connecting thread between these artists is their relationship to the San Francisco Art Institute as visiting faculty, associate professor, and visiting lecturer, and to the art world as they each thundered onto the gallery scene in San Francisco in the early 1980s. And while the artists are not able to attend openings any longer, their work most vibrantly and eloquently greets the viewer.

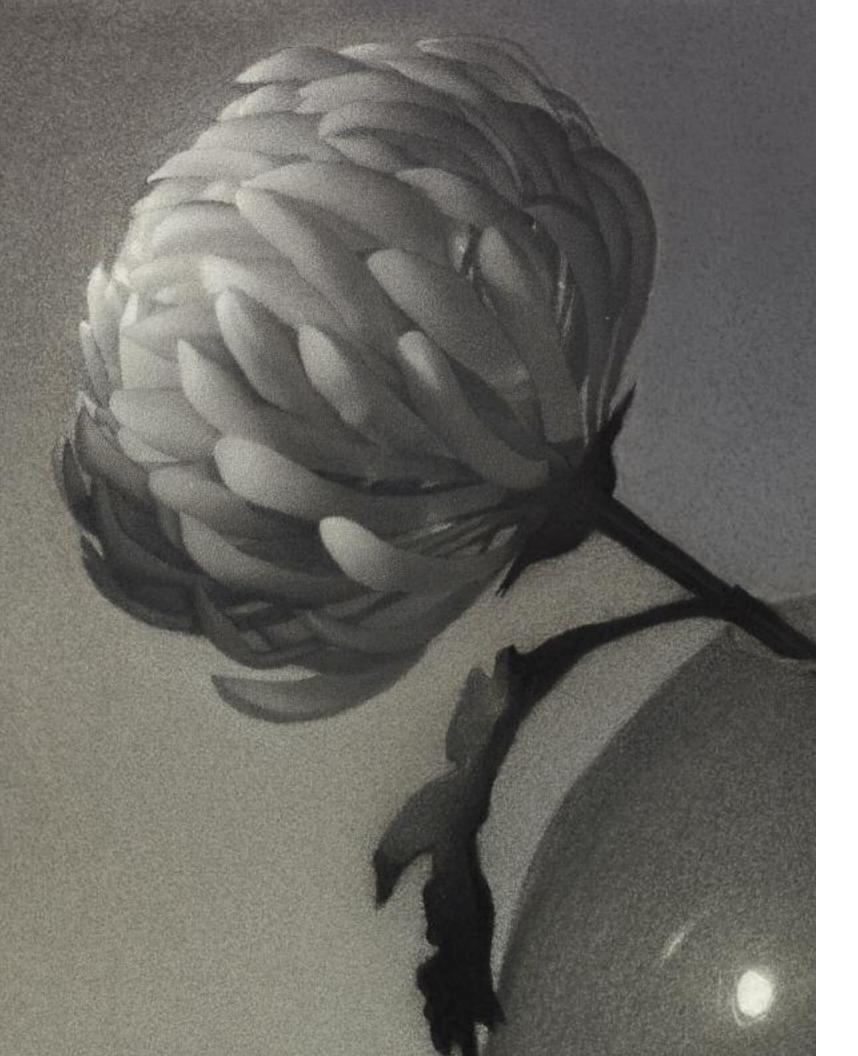
Susan Hauptman set up scenes inside her studio, using direct observation, lighting and a mirror. Irene Pijoan used her most personal life experiences, including the birth of her daughter and the death of her mother, as source material. In her fearless and innovative pushing of herself to move into new manifestations and interpretations of her ideas and visual language, both abstraction and text coexist. Richard Sheehan's bold and direct images moved from understated and unspoken roadside moments to momentous, large Franz Kline-sized strokes to depict the scale of a shadow or bridge span.

Gallerist Tony Meier inspired the title of this exhibition in a conversation and visit that we had a year ago about several works of art.

This show would not have happened without the generosity, time, cooperation and teamwork of the following individuals. I would like to thank: Atelier 4; Stephanie Boris; Marguerite Cullman; Shirl Fink; Cheryl Fishko, Forum Gallery; Amber Goldstein, Minnesota Street Project; Heather Hickman Holland, San Francisco Art Institute; Gordon Knox, San Francisco Art Institute; Marcia Loeb; Alicia McCarthy; Craig Nagasawa; Dr. Cristina Orr-Cahall; Elizabeth Peak; James Pennuto, Conservation of Art LLC; Leonard Post; Barbara Raymond; Ira Schrank; Anne Shulock, San Francisco Art Institute; Dr. Lester Sheehan and Joan Sheehan, The Sheehan Family Trust; Inez Storer; Terrie Sultan; Kat Trataris, San Francisco Art Institute; U.S.Art; Howie Lee Weiss; and Justin Wyckoff.

Jeremy Stone Guest Curator

San Francisco December 2018



# SUSAN HAUPTMAN

Late in 1982 I had been tipped off in a phone call to keep my eyes peeled for Susan Hauptman. The word was that she had moved to Oakland from New York City, but I had no idea how to find her - and if I found her, how would I recognize her? The glass front door to my fledgling fourth-floor shoebox gallery space at 126 Post Street opened one day and there she was. Susan entered and introduced herself quietly. With gracious hesitance she invited me to visit her Oakland studio to see her drawings in person. Her blond hair was buzz-cut short, and she was dressed androgynously in a short-sleeved buttoned shirt and baggy pants. A small woman, she could easily be mistaken for a teenage boy, until she fixed her gaze on you and spoke. Her voice was quiet and soft, and she always had a question. She was efficient and did not waste your time or hers, her words or her ideas. She knew time was precious and valuable.

On my first visit to her Oakland studio workspace, a loft in a big studio complex with a large floor-to-ceiling window facing west, ornate crusted birthday cakes of indeterminate age sat on tables. She had found a bakery in Alameda that produced the traditional cake decorating styles that captivated her, old-fashioned cakes for birthdays, anniversaries, confirmations and weddings. Iconic characters in her still life drawings, the vases, beach balls and fabrics lay waiting for her command and arrangement. Her collection of vases, glass and ceramic, was exquisitely curated. She often brought fresh flowers to the gallery.

Hauptman's work invites you into a thick Narnia world inhabiting an alternate space where one can look but not join her. Intensely quiet and disciplined, fanatically observational, her charcoal drawings are startling. The self-portraits have no vanity or guise. They stare directly back at the viewer. Much in the tradition of Caravaggio and Rembrandt, Hauptman wears costumes and outfits in her self-portraits to shift the mood, to transform herself.

Dr. Christina Orr-Cahall was an early champion of Hauptmann's work, during her tenure at the Oakland Museum. Her enthusiasm led to one of Susan's first purchases by a museum, a 1986 nude – a self-portrait holding a bowling ball. Unlike most female self-portraits, the breasts were hidden and the pubic hair was on full frontal display.

In BEST PICKS, at the Oakland Museum, October 1986–January 1987, Orr-Cahall wrote in the catalogue: "Struck years ago by a series of Rembrandt self-portraits, she realized that self-portraiture could be a tool for defining one's life, not in the sense of chronicling the ageing process, but as a means of exploring an artist's relationship to her art. Still life, for Hauptman, is a release from self-portraiture, giving her the freedom to place forms in a composition as she wishes rather than by dictate of the human body..... Her portraiture, in the tradition of nineteenth century American painter Thomas Eakins, has an edge which moves it from the accurate representation of subject to a new plateau of emotional impact."<sup>1</sup>

A solo show for Hauptman at The Corcoran Gallery of Art followed when Orr-Cahall's career took her back to the East Coast as the new director. Terrie Sultan, then Curator of Contemporary Art at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, now director of the Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, NY, organized Susan Hauptman: The Obsessive Image, February 3 – March 26, 1990. A 1989 still life work included in the 1990 Corcoran Gallery of Art exhibition, Still Life (With Beach Ball, Peony and Glass Vase), has been included in A+.

As Sultan wrote brilliantly in her essay for the 1990 museum exhibition catalogue:

#### The Love of Looking and the Projection of Desire

"Despite first appearances, Susan Hauptman is not a realist. Representation – as opposed to resemblance – is reflexive, and Hauptman's self-portraits do not set out to represent photographic verification, but to disclose her existence through meditation and metaphor. Like Lewis Carroll's Alice, Hauptman is fascinated with a looking-glass world of reflected perceptions that is full of reversal and contradiction. Her art exploits the dual roles of the model and its double, empowering images as agents that represent herself to the viewer. Hauptman's use of mirrors as vehicles for introspection rather than windows to nature seizes on reflection to evoke a private activity of discovery and revelation. Just as Alice's story can be read in terms of sexual enlightenment, we can similarly regard Hauptman's work as visual documents of her artistic identity and a sensual and sexual being."

#### and

#### Still Life: Oblique Narratives

"Created simultaneously with the self-portraits, Hauptman's still lifes use less confrontational tactics to expand the dimensions of her theatre of emotion. Including objects in oblique combinations, she gives herself the freedom to liberally fragment and restructure reality in mysterious ways that she cannot convincingly accomplish in depictions of herself. While the self-portraits can be seen as documenting particular events or even outré erotic fantasies, Hauptman's still lifes offer a means of mitigating the often mundane details of subjective reality through the poetry of allusions created with meticulously exacting precision. In these compositions, relationships and situations are left purposefully ambiguous or unexplained, inferring a double world in which personalized mythological subtexts are often more important than what is described:

"It is the viewer's responsibility to decode the artist's symbolic structures. Objects assume the role of surrogates with the quality of characters whose compelling surfaces have been invested with aspects of personality. These forms reappear in different circumstances as members of a theatrical group consigned to present a new and different play in each still life.

"Repeated from drawing to drawing, they become a vocabulary with which Hauptman constructs an internal discourse on a reflective and often contradictory world of opposites that are phrased in terms that encompass masculine and feminine, black and white, decoration and substance, subjective sensualist and objective artist. In addition to proffering seductive accoutrements under the guise of set dressing, they gain meaning from Hauptman's awareness and careful manipulation of their importance for precisionist, constructivist, and surrealist artists."2

Susan received a BFA from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and received an MFA from Wayne State University, Detroit, MI but her studies with the late Herb Olds, who taught at Carnegie Mellon, had a lasting influence on her. She felt the responsibility of passing on that knowledge. And encouragement.

Irene Pijoan, who admired Hauptman's work and had initiated a dialogue, recruited Hauptman to teach Drawing at the San Francisco Art Institute in 1990.

Susan had no notion about media or what anyone's art should look like. She was interested in tone and light, in surprises, in non-linear perspectives. She felt her role was to help students see, to give them tools, to encourage them. To never discourage them. She liked students who worked hard, not surprisingly, and Drawing 1 was her favorite class to teach, according to Leonard Post, her husband.

"Light enables me to see; it's what really gives shape and form. For me an object is not defined by color. Color gets in the way. I'm not carrying a cross for black and white. I use color when I can, but I'm not in love with color like I am with light. It's good to hear that people think my work has mystery. I like it when things are not so simple. I live with a drawing for months and months and months. I have to be concentrating the whole time. I'm after accuracy but not realism. I'm looking for the perfect texture, tone. I can tell when the life is in a drawing."

This is Hauptman's first exhibition in San Francisco in 25 years.

<sup>1</sup> Orr-Cahall, Christina, Chief Curator of Art, BEST PICKS. (Oakland Museum, Oakland, CA, 1986). Catalogue

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Sultan, Terrie. Susan Hauptman: The Obsessive Image. (The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, 1990). Catalogue.

### SELF PORTRAIT (LA PERLA #1)

charcoal on paper

54" h x 40" w

2006

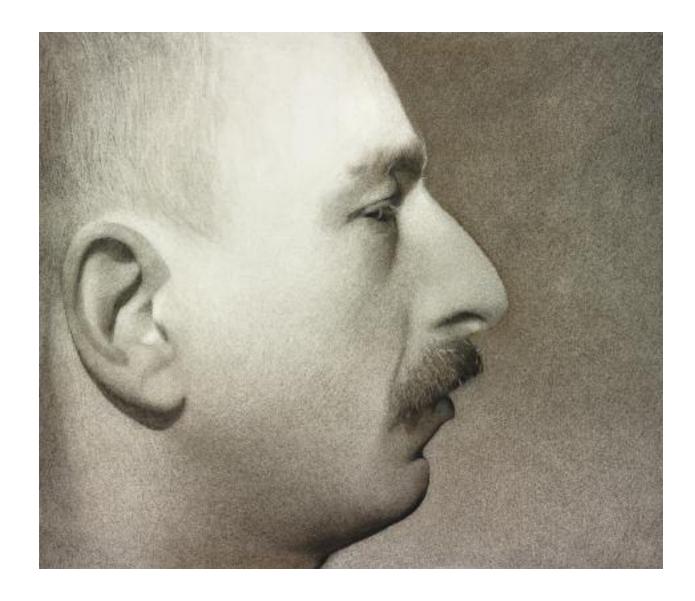
Courtesy of Forum Gallery, NY and estate of the artist



PORTRAIT OF LEONARD

charcoal on paper 11" h x 13" w 1986

Private collection, San Francisco, CA

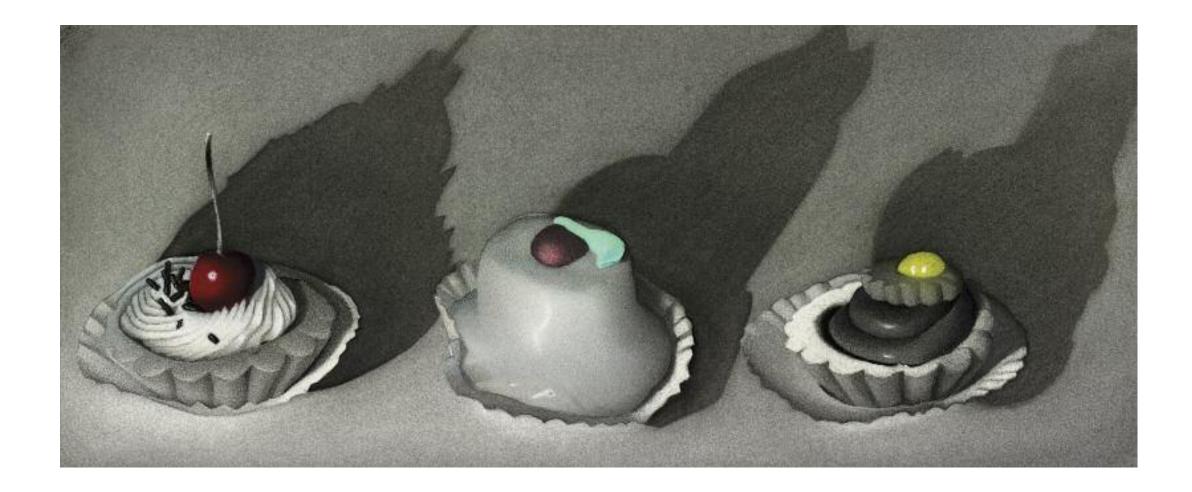


STILL LIFE (WITH BEACH BALL, PEONY AND GLASS VASE) charcoal, pastel on paper 26" h x 26" w 1989 Collection of Barbara Raymond, San Francisco, CA



FOUR LEMONS charcoal, pastel on paper 13 ½" h x 21½" w 1989 Collection of Craig and Emiko Nagasawa, Berkeley, CA





THREE PASTRIES charcoal, pastel on paper 13½" h x 31½" w 1996 Collection of Craig and Emiko Nagasawa, Berkeley, CA

### SELF PORTRAIT (WITH BRANCH)

charcoal, pastel on paper

54" h x 40" w

2005

Courtesy of Forum Gallery, NY and estate of the artist



#### **SUSAN HAUPTMAN** (1947–2015)

		SELECTED	GROUP EXHIBITIONS
1947	Born in Michigan, December 8	2018–19	Eye to I: Self-Portraits from 190
EDUCATION		2018	There's Still Life!, Forum Galler
		2017	We the People, Minnesota Mus
1969–70	Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, M.F.A. Degree		Seeing With Our Own Eyes, Fo
1967–68	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, B.F.A. Degree		Forum Gallery Celebrates 55 Y
1965–66	Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh, PA, B.F.A.		New York, NY.
		2016	20/21 – Visionary Artists of the
TEACHING		2014	Téte-à-Téte: Portraits in Dialog
		2014	46th Collectors Show & Sale, A Wives, Daughters, and Lovers,
2015	Kirk Newman Art School, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Kalamazoo, MI.		Re-presenting Representation
2000 02	Visiting Artist Workshop	2013	Singular Vision, Forum Gallery,
2000–02 1997	Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Visiting Artist Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Visiting Artist	2010	Roots and Links: Gifts from the
1997-2000	Lamar Dodd Professorial Chair, University of Georgia, Athens		Corcoran Gallery o
1996	University of California, Santa Barbara. Visiting Artist		Lies that Tell the Truth: Magic F
1770	Oregon School of Arts and Crafts. Visiting Artist		at Indiana State Un
1990	San Francisco Art Institute, CA. Visiting Artist		CHARCOAL!, Schick Art Galler
	Wayne State University, Detroit, MI. Visiting Artist		Face to Face: Artists' Self-Portr
1985	University of California, Davis, CA. Visiting Artist		Arkansas Arts Cent
1981	University of Pittsburgh, PA. Semester at Sea	2012	44th Collectors Show & Sale, A
1974–78	Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY. Assistant Professor		Perception of Self, Forum Galle
1974	St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY. Visiting Artist		Five Decades: Art and Artists c
1972–74	University of Pittsburgh, PA. Instructor	0014	New York, NY.
		2011	43rd Collector's Show & Sale, A
SOLO EXH	IBITIONS	2010	Vantage Point 2011, Forum Ga
		2010	Contemporary Figurative Art ir
2015	New Drawings, Forum Gallery, New York, NY. Catalogue.		Beyoglu, Istanbul, 1 42nd Collectors Show & Sale, <i>A</i>
2006-10	Susan Hauptman, Forum Gallery, New York, NY. Catalogue.	2009	A Figural Presence, Chapel Art
	Susan Hauptman, Lux Art Institute, Encinitas, CA.	2007	Reflections/Refractions: Self-Po
0004	Susan Hauptman: Drawings, Forum Gallery, New York, NY. Catalogue.		Smithsonian Nation
2004	Forum Gallery, Los Angeles, CA.		The Human Subject, The Art G
2002	Drawn from the Heart, Forum Gallery, New York, NY .		Summer Selections, Forum Gal
2000	Georgia Museum of Art, Athens, GA.	2008–09	Contemporary Women's Self P
	Walter Gropius Masters Workshop Series: Drawing the Figure, Huntington Museum of Art, Huntington, WV.	2008	The Figure Revealed: Contemp
1999	Animations, Forum Gallery, New York, NY.		Kalamazoo Institute
1996	Tatistcheff Gallery, New York, NY. Catalogue.		Scrutiny: Artists' Self Portraits,
1770	Tatistcheff/Rogers Gallery, Santa Monica, CA. Catalogue.		Annville, PA.
1993	Tatistcheff Gallery, New York, NY.		Not Without Form: Recent Dra
	Campbell-Thiebaud Gallery, San Francisco, CA. Catalogue.		Donna Beam Fine A
1992	Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL.	2007–08	Visions: Selections from the Jai
	Tatistcheff Gallery, Santa Monica, CA. Catalogue.	2007	Naples Museum of
1990	Susan Hauptman: The Obsessive Image, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC.	2007	The Fine Art of Drawing: Mode
	Catalogue.		New York, NY. About Face, Long Beach Muse
1989	Jeremy Stone Gallery, San Francisco, CA.		0
1988	Allan Stone Gallery, New York, NY.		The Feminist Figure, Forum Ga Real and Imagined: Works of A
1984	Allan Stone Gallery, New York, NY.		Susan Hauptman a
	Triton Museum of Art, Santa Clara, CA.		The Figure in Pastel, Butler Inst
	Jeremy Stone Gallery, San Francisco, CA.	2005–06	37th Collectors Show & Sale, A
			Singular Expressions: Sheldon
			5 1

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900 to Today, National Portrait Gallery, Washington, DC. ery, New York, NY. Iuseum of American Art, St. Paul, MN. Forum Gallery, New York, NY. 5 Years of Modern and Contemporary Art, Forum Gallery, he 21st Century, Forum Gallery, New York, NY. ogue, Allan Stone Projects, New York, NY. , Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, AR. rs, Forum Gallery, New York, NY. on VIII, Arnot Art Museum, Elmira, NY. ry, New York, NY. he Women's Committee of the Corcoran Gallery of Art, of Art, Washington, DC. ic Realism in Contemporary Art, University Art Gallery University, Terre Haute, IN. lery at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY. ortraits from the Collection of Jackye and Curtis Finch Jr., nter, Little Rock, AR. , Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, AR. allery, New York, NY. s of Forum Gallery 1962–2012, Forum Gallery, , Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, AR. Gallery, New York, NY. t in U.S.A. – A Selection, Casa Dell'Arte, l, Turkey. , Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, AR. Art Center at Saint Anselm College, Manchester, NH. -Portraiture in the Twentieth Century, ional Portrait Gallery, Washington, DC. Gallery at Cleveland State University, Cleveland, OH. Gallery, New York, NY. <sup>f</sup> Portraiture: The Kahlo Legacy, Spheris Gallery, Hanover, NH. mporary American Figurative Paintings and Drawings, ute of Art, MI. s, Suzanne H. Arnold Art Gallery, Lebanon Valley College, Drawings and Works on Paper, e Art Gallery, University of Nevada, Los Vegas, NV. James T. Dyke Collection of Contemporary Drawings, of Art, FL; Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, AR. dern & Contemporary Works on Paper, Forum Gallery, seum of Art, Long Beach, CA. Gallery, New York, NY. f Art by Wayne State University Alumni Ed Fraga, and Carol Pylant, Elaine L. Jacob Gallery, Detroit, MI.

- nstitute of American Art, Youngstown, OH.
- , Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, AR.
- on Invitational, Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, Lincoln, NE.

2005	The Figurative Impulse, Forum Gallery, Los Angeles, CA.	1994	National Drawing Invitational, Ar
	Looking at Herself, Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts, Old Lyme, CT.	1992	Susan Hauptman and William Be
2004	Artist Talk: Five Years, Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts, Old Lyme, CT.		Indiana University A
	Drawings VII, Koplin Del Rio Gallery, Los Angeles, CA.		Black and White, Riverside Art
	Self-Evidence: Identity in Contemporary Art, deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Lincoln, MA.	1991	43rd Annual Academy-Institute F
	Masters and Mavericks, Seraphin Gallery, Philadelphia, PA.		Institute of Arts and L
	Displacement: Contemporary Drawings, Gescheidle Gallery, Chicago, IL.		Recent Acquisitions of the Acher
	Contemporary Art from a Figurative Perspective, Laguna College of Art and Design, Laguna Beach, CA.		1950–1991, Californi
2003	Go Figure! Manifestations of the Human Form in Contemporary Art, Turchin Center for		San Jose Institute of Contempora
	the Visual Arts, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC.	1988	Work by Newly Elected Member
	Transforming the Commonplace, Susquehanna Art Museum, Harrisburg, PA.		American Academy a
	Modern and Contemporary Portraits curated by Townsend Wolfe, Forum Gallery, New York, NY.		The Artists of California: A Group
	Magic Realism: A New Generation, Sangre de Cristo Arts Center, Pueblo, CO.		Traveling exhibition t
	Contemporary Works on Paper, Forum Gallery, New York, NY.	4007	Laguna Art Museum,
	35th Collectors Show & Sale, Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, AR.	1987	Present Perspectives: 1975–1985
	The New York Collection 2003–2004, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY.		1945–Present, Fresno
2002	Dog Days of Summer, Savannah College of Art and Design, GA.		Gallery Artists, Jeremy Stone Ga
2002	Representations: The Art of Drawing, Schick Art Gallery, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY.		Bay Area Drawing, Richmond Art
	The Perception of Appearance: A Decade of Contemporary American Figure Drawing,	100/	Allan Stone Gallery, New York, N
	Frye Art Museum, Seattle, WA.	1986	Best Picks, Oakland Museum, Oa
2001-02	Magic Vision, Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, AR.		Contemporary Bay Area Art: A J
2001 02	Drawings, McNeese State University, Lake Charles, LA.		San Francisco, CA. Recent Drawings from Northern
2000	Visiting Lectures, Department of Visual and Environmental Studies, Carpenter Center for the	1985	The Janss Collection of 20th Cer
2000	Visiting Lectures, Department of Visual and Environmental Studies, Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.	1703	of Modern Art, San F
	Nude + Narrative, P.P.O.W., New York, NY.		Donna Cehrs, Guy Diehl, Stanley
	Still Lifes, William Baczek Fine Arts, Northampton, MA.		San Francisco, CA.
1999			M. Lee Fatheree, Photographs o
1777	Contemporary Still Life, The Contemporary Art Center of Virginia, Virginia Beach, VA.		Concourse Gallery, S
	New Visions by Nine Contemporary Women, Forum Gallery, New York, NY.		Dealers Choice, San Francisco In
	1999 Nexus Biennial: Celebrating Local Figures, Nexus Contemporary Art Center, Atlanta, GA.		San Jose Institute of Contempora
1000	Self Portraits, Elaine L. Jacob Gallery, Detroit, MI.	1984	Line/Gesture/Dimension: Recent
1998	It's Still Life, Forum Gallery, New York, NY.		Arts Commission Gal
	The Figure, Marcia Wood Gallery, Atlanta, GA.	1983	Great Big Drawings, Roger Rams
	Still Life Painting Today, Jerald Melberg Gallery Inc., Charlotte, NC.	.,	On Paper, Jeremy Stone Gallery,
	The Figurative Impulse, Miami-Dade Community College, Kendall Campus Art Gallery, Miami, FL.	1982	Allan Stone Gallery, New York, N
	Drawings IV, Koplin Gallery, Los Angeles, CA.	1976	Drawing Invitational, Smith Colle
	Realism Knows No Bounds, van de Griff Gallery, Santa Fe, NM.	1975	Drawing USA, Minnesota Museur
	Theater of Self-Invention: Self-Portraiture in Contemporary Art, J.B. Speed Art Museum,		International British Drawing Bier
4007 00	Louisville, KY.		
1997–98	Table Tops: Morandi's Still Lifes to Mapplethorpe's Flower Studies, California Center for the Arts	AWARDS A	ND GRANTS
	Museum, Escondido, CA.	, ,	
	The Artist's World, Hirschl & Adler Galleries, New York, NY.	2009–10	Artist Residency, Lux Art Institute
1997	Gillespie, Hauptman, Stelzmann: Works of Art, Ann Nathan Gallery, Chicago, IL.	2009	Pollock-Krasner Foundation
	Old Faces, New Faces, Forum Gallery, New York, NY.	2002	Pollock-Krasner Foundation
	Objects of Personal Significance, Knoxville Museum of Art, Knoxville, TN.	1996	Adolph & Esther Gottlieb Found
	Traveling exhibition, catalogue.		Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts
	Composite Persona, University Art Gallery, San Diego State University &	1995, 1989	Art Matters, Inc.
	Fullerton Museum Center, CA. Traveling exhibition, catalogue.	1991, 1985	National Endowment for the Arts
	V.E.S. Visiting Faculty, Carpenter Center, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA		USA/France Fellowship, National
1996	Narcissism: Artists Reflect Themselves, California Center for the Arts Museum, Escondido, CA.	1990	California Arts Council, Visual Art
	Catalogue.	1988	American Academy and Institute
1995	Self-Portraits, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI	1984	Oakland Museum Artist of the Ye
	Collecting with Richard Brown Baker, Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT. Catalogue.	1976	Yaddo Grant, Summer Residence
	The Reconstructed Figure, Katonah Museum of Art, Katonah, NY. Catalogue.		
	Re-presenting Representation, Arnot Art Museum, Elmira, NY		
	Vital Signs, Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Los Angeles, CA. Catalogue.		

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al, Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, AR. Catalogue. m Beckman - The Female Nude, ity Art Museum, Bloomington, IN. Art Museum, Riverside, CA. ute Purchase Exhibition, American Academy and and Letters, New York, NY. Achenbach Foundation for Graphic Arts, Part Two: fornia Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco, CA. nporary Art, San Jose, CA. mbers and Recipients of Honors and Awards, my and Institute of Arts and Letters, New York, NY. Group Portrait in Mixed Media, Oakland Museum, Oakland, CA. ion to Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA; eum, Laguna Beach, CA. 1985; Passages: A Survey of California Women Artists, resno Art Center & Museum, Fresno, CA. Gallery, San Francisco, CA. d Art Center, Richmond, CA. Catalogue rk, NY. n, Oakland, CA. : A Jewish Perspective, Jewish Community Museum, nern California, University of California, Davis, CA. Century American Realism, San Francisco Museum San Francisco, CA. Traveling exhibition, catalogue. anley Goldstein, Susan Hauptman, Jeremy Stone Gallery, hs of Artists, Bank of America World Headquarter, ery, San Francisco, CA. co International Airport. nporary Art, San Jose, CA ecent Drawings by Five Bay Area Artists, San Francisco Gallery, San Francisco, CA Ramsay Gallery, Chicago, IL. llery, San Francisco, CA. rk, NY. College Museum of Art, Smith College, Northampton, MA. useum of Art, St. Paul, MN. Biennale, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, England.

itute, Encinitas, CA.

oundation Grant Arts Grant

Arts Fellowship ional Endowment for the Arts al Artist Fellowship itute of Arts and Letters he Year Award lence, Saratoga Springs, NY.

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#### SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Achenbach Foundation for Graphic Arts, San Francisco, CA Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, AR Richard Brown Baker, New York, NY California Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco, CA Chase Manhattan Bank, New York, NY Collection of Jackye and Curtis Finch, Jr. Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc., San Francisco, CA James T. Dyke Collection Lee Grant, New York, NY Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH Glenn Janss Collection, Sun Valley, ID Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kogod, Washington, DC Beth & Stephen Landsman, Chicago, IL The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY Minnesota Museum of American Art, St. Paul, MN Sue Moldaw, San Francisco, CA Craig Nagasawa, Berkeley, CA Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA Pacific Bell, San Ramon, CA Barbara Raymond, San Francisco, CA Sheldon Museum of Art, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, Washington, DC Allan Stone, New York, NY



# IRENE PIJOAN

In 1981 Irene Pijoan's solo show of small encaustic relief, oil on wood pieces hung on a long white wall at Gallery Paule Anglim, San Francisco. Thunderstruck by the freshness of her courage, the physicality, intimacy and sheer talent, I immediately referenced Hannah Wilke, an artist who had no fear or gualms about being the main character in her personal narrative. I did not know that Pijoan had studied with Jimi Suzuki, Bob Brady and Oliver Jackson at Sacramento State when she first began to study art. Or that she worked closely with Manuel Neri, Robert Arneson and Roy De Forest at UC Davis after she transferred, during her undergraduate studies and continuing with them in graduate studies. Her encaustic pieces celebrated the emotional power of shared intimacy.

In the 1990s, Pijoan moved into painting on canvas and mixed media works on paper with cut-outs. She kept experimenting and experimenting. Her work did not reflect her teachers as much as her fierce innovative spirit and instincts. The paintings of the 1990s were the most traditionally beautiful works that Pijoan completed. The 1997 – 1998 mixed media works on paper jumped to a virtuosity that welcomed and embraced the technical difficulties and challenges of dimension and space.

Inez Storer, artist and founder of The Lester Gallery, Inverness, first exhibited Pijoan's work in 1980 after Manuel Neri called her and asked her to look at Pijoan's work. Pijoan had just finished the MFA program and Neri was very impressed by her graduate work. Storer drove to Davis (or Pijoan came out to Inverness). It was one of the last shows Storer mounted at the Lester Gallery space. "What made you want to show her work?" I asked Storer. Inez replied, "She had Talent."

Sam Tchakalian, head of the painting department at SFAI, called and offered Pijoan a job there in 1983, the same year he hired Storer. "Her students were gobsmacked. She went by the book! Color theory. She was a taskmaster! The students have to learn it," Storer recounted. "She had no humor about it and put a burden of perfection on her teaching. She was incredibly beautiful, young but very tough."

Toba Khedoori, Rachel Khedoori, Alicia McCarthy, Ruby Neri, Jason Rhoades, and Paris gallerist Joseph Tang all studied with Irene Pijoan, an associate professor at SFAI from 1983 until 2004.

Alicia wrote about studying with Irene, being her teaching assistant while a student at the San Francisco Art Institute, and later Pijoan's studio assistant:

"Irene had so much influence on me but I'm having difficulty quantifying it or even articulating it. She mentored me. I felt so honored and to be frank scared and intimidated by her which ultimately I know was a true sign of the respect I had for her. "She was so ahead of her time. Her show at ICA San Jose was so raw and beautiful and brutal. So much about insecurity and vulnerability and checking ourselves as artists. "She loved that I was weird and she never tried to box me in, she always encouraged me to find my own way thru the act of painting and as well the act of being a human.

"She believed in integrity in every action. She would not stand for BS. I never heard or witnessed her raise her voice but she was so pissed about injustice politically and as well personally and was just pissed her life was cut short. The last thing she did for me was on her death bed, she was incredibly intuitive and generous to me that day. She recognized I was hurting myself and to this day I do not know how she knew I was not in a good place at that time and she told me straight up just like she always did. I owe so much to her, she has changed my life more than once and continues to mentor me to this day. I live to be respected by her. Her legacy and influence will never die. Irene never took advantage of the privilege of being an artist.

She worked 4 fulltime jobs: Her art, Her family, Teaching, Being an activist."

—Alicia McCarthy

Ruby Neri wrote about Irene's importance to her:

During my first year at SFAI, when I was 19, I took a beginning painting class with Irene Pijoan. She was a very direct person - very forward, frank and helped me come out of my shell.

Irene taught me how to use encaustic, painting with wax. During my first critique at SFAI, she really dug into me, made me explain the entire intent of my narrative and pointed out how nothing worked in the painting, somehow though in the most kind manner and although I was mortified, I really respected her for speaking her mind, not liking the work and saying so. Irene never sugar coated anything.

While I can't remember how it came about, she knew that I was Manuel Neri's daughter, and we bonded over the fact that she had been his student at UC Davis. Soon after I learned that some of the work hanging on the walls of my dad's house, that I liked very much, was her work. That I already liked the work prior to knowing her made me very happy.

Irene was helpful even when I wasn't enrolled in her classes — she always had time for me and understood how going to SFAI was a complex thing for me. She was the one person who suggested that I should leave the Bay Area to fully develop as an artist in my own right and she was absolutely correct. Irene Pijoan was my most important teacher at SFAI.

-Ruby Rose Neri

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"Whether it was sharing encaustic techniques or slide shows of historical artists, Irene was an engaged and challenging professor. She was young, confident and beautiful. We were in awe of her. She was a great role model and her aloofness and intensity could be attributed to a protective shield that was required to succeed in a male dominated painting department at SFAI in the 80s, an atmosphere and pedagogy of painting that was visceral that did not reflect so much on feelings.

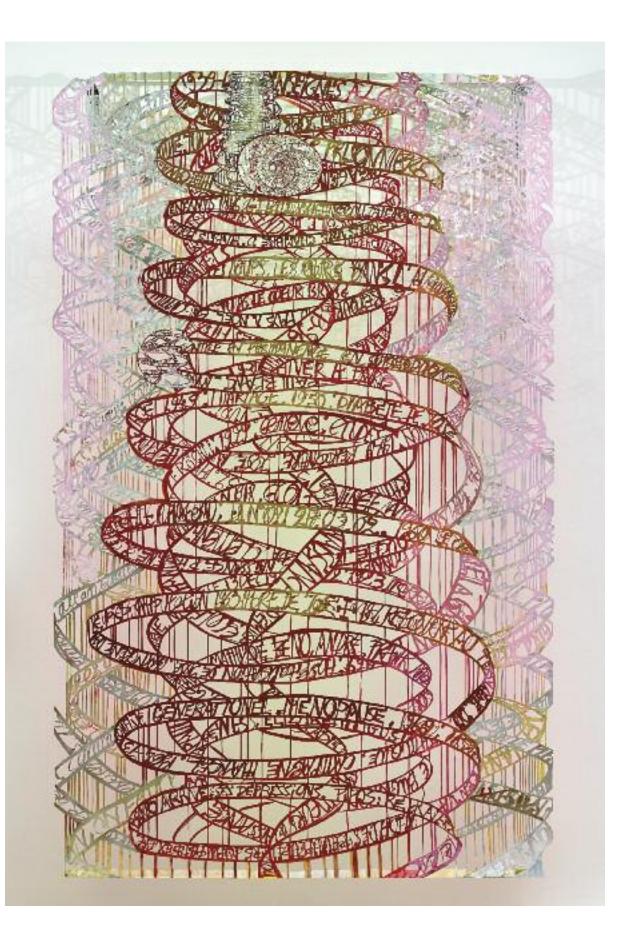
"In her drawing class we were encouraged to reflect, meditate, and slow down to become connected to the process of mark making. She would exude an air of playfulness and joy at the sheer magic of creating that encouraged you to want to experiment, take the time to hone your skills. I still follow her advice today. I remember that there was a lot of silence in her class, which was a balance to the jazz, blues and classical sounds that filled other classes. I learned to hear myself in a different sphere.

"When I saw Irene at Sam Tchakalian's memorial in early 2004, I was greeted by her with a big smile, shining happy eyes to see me and a silent embrace that held me tight and told me more than words could. It had been a while since I saw her and here she was with a red cap on keeping her bald head warm, noticeably thinner, wrapped in a colorful wrap, yet the strength of an amazon. She held me so tightly, with such strength that silently I got her message. That's what she did in class, her presence was sometimes all that you needed. She was gone a few months later, far too soon."

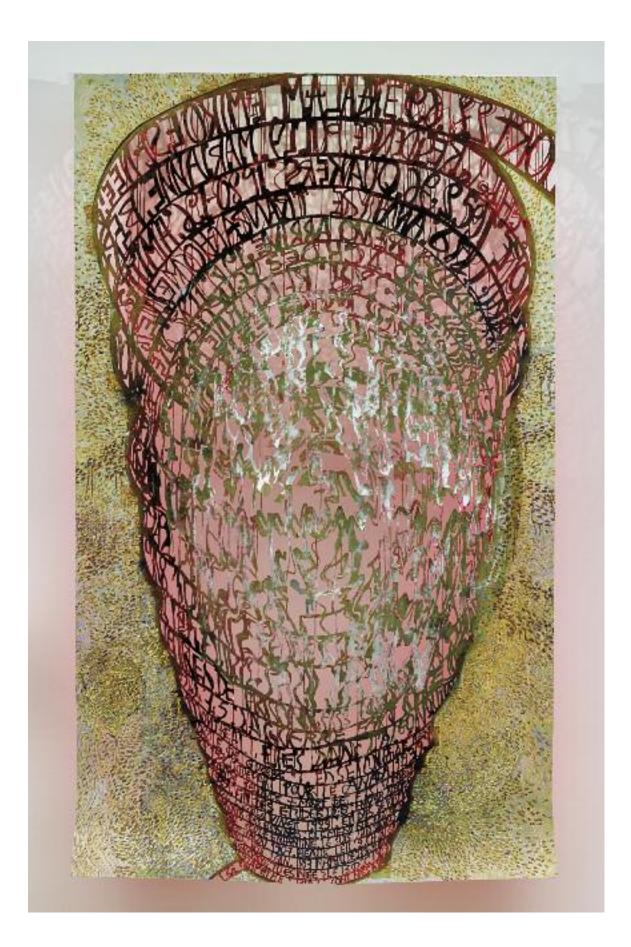
-Yasmin Lambie-Simpson, Vice President and Dean of Student Affairs at San Francisco Art Institute, November 2018. Lambie-Simpson was an undergraduate student of Pijoan's at SFAI in the 1980s.

ADDRESS

acrylic on paper with cut-outs 130" h x 80" w 1998 Courtesy of the estate of the artist

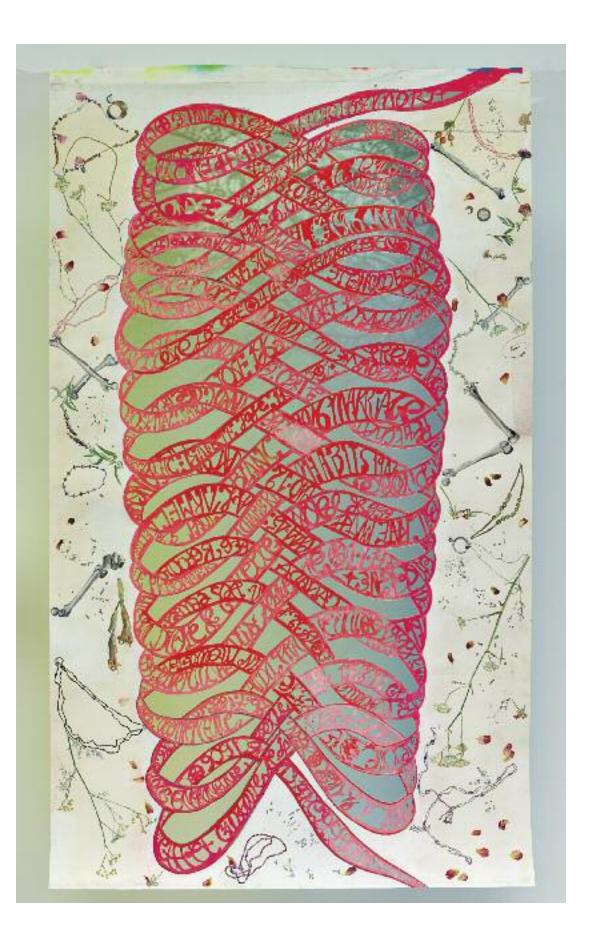


COLUMN TO HIVE gouache on paper with cut-outs 115" h x 69" w 1997 Courtesy of the estate of the artist



CUTTING FROM A GRADUAL

acrylic on paper with cut-outs 130" h x 77" w 1997 Courtesy of the estate of the artist



SLEEVE mixed media on paper with cut-outs 73" h x 56" w 1997-98 Courtesy of the estate of the artist

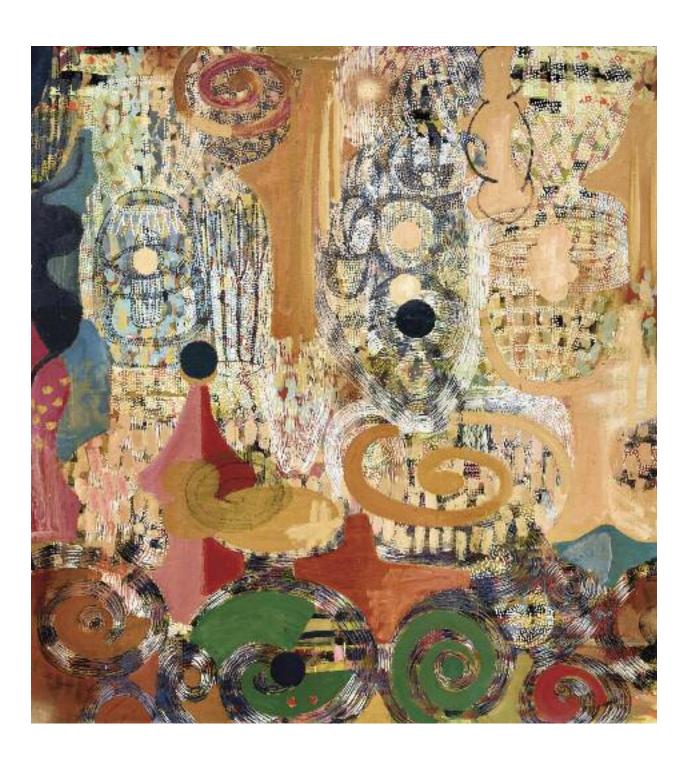


#### SANTA CLAUS MEMBRANE

oil on canvas 84" h x 78" w

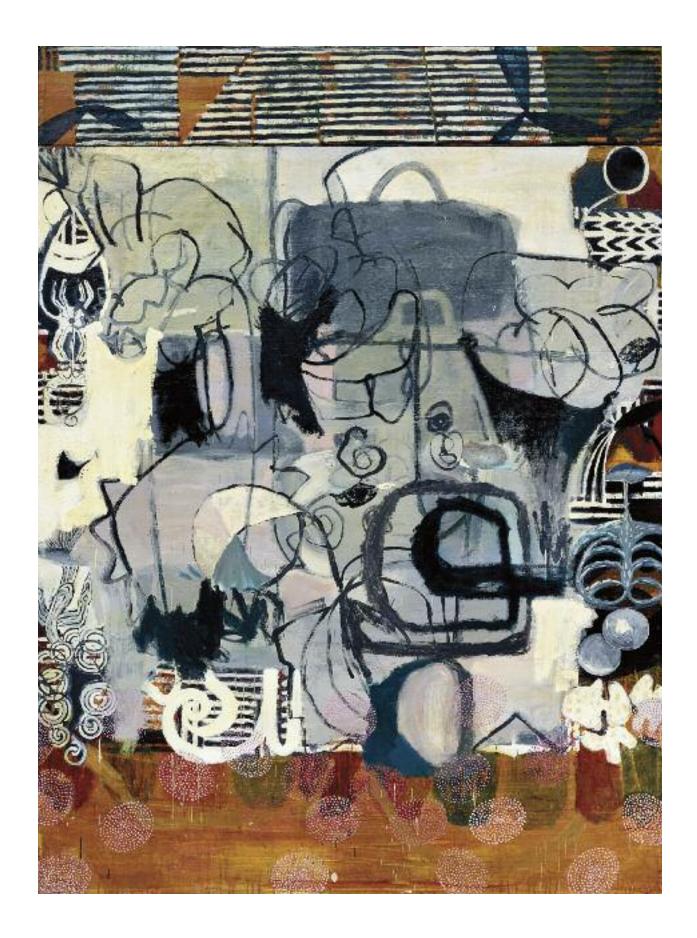
1991

Courtesy of the estate of the artist



SUITCASE

oil on canvas 83¾" h x 61½" w 1990 Courtesy of the estate of the artist



#### **IRENE PIJOAN** (1953–2004)

**GRANTS AND HONORS** 

1984

1983

1982

1981

1980

1978

1977

1983–2004 San Francisco Art Institute, Associate Professor

Quay Gallery, San Francisco, CA.

Eason Gallery, Santa Fe, NM.

Lester Gallery, Inverness, CA.

HCD/Artspace, Sacramento, CA.

Acme Gallery, Sacramento, CA.

American River College, Sacramento, CA.

Gallery Paule Anglim, San Francisco, CA.

Roswell Museum and Art Center, Roswell, NM.

De Saisset Museum, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA.

		SPECIAL PROJECTS, COMMISSIONS	
1953	Born in Lausanne, Switzerland		
		2003–04	Public Commission, San Francis
EDUCAT	TON	2002–03 ICTF Project. Tree project, Ru	
		2000-03	Public Commission, Santa Clara
1980	University of California, Davis, CA, M.F.A. Degree		Entrance lobby, stairv
1978	University of California, Davis, CA, B.F.A. Degree	2000-2003	Public Commission, Highland H
		2000	Theatrical Set, LINES Ballet, Yei
TEACHING		1999	Public Commission, Harborviev
			Main and north entra

#### **GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

UIVAINI 3 P			
		2018	Way Bay, Berkeley Art Museum
2001	Faculty Travel Grant, San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, CA.		Way Bay 2, Berkeley Art Museu
2000	Artist in Residence, California State University, Sacramento, CA.		Collective Vision, Bivins Gallery,
1996	Individual Artist Grant, Art Matters, New York, NY.		Group Show: Summer, Bivins G
1993	Faculty Travel Grant, San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, CA. Travel to Barcelona	2017	21 to Watch, Bivins Gallery, Dall
1990	Djerassi Foundation Residency for 1991.		Group Show: Summer, Bivins G
	Faculty Development Grant, San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, CA.		Cut Up/Cut Out, Bedford Galler
1982	National Endowment for the Arts, Individual Artist Grant.		Traveling to:
1981–82	Artist in Residence, The Roswell Museum and Art Center, Roswell, NM.		Bellevue Arts Museum, Bellev
1980-81	Artist in Residence, Ford Foundation Grant, The University of Georgia, Athens, GA.		Huntsville Museum of Art, Hu
1981	SECCA Southeast Seven Fellowship Award, Winston-Salem, NC.		Pensacola Museum of Art, Pe
1980	Inter-Campus Research Grant, The University of California, Davis, CA.		Ellen Noël Art Museum, Odes
1979–80	Regents' Graduate Fellowship, The University of California, Davis, CA.		Museum of Arts & Sciences, D
1979	Scholarship, Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, ME. Purchase Award.		Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art N
			Amarillo Museum of Art, Ama
ONE-PERS	SON EXHIBITIONS		Art Museum of West Virginia
			October 12–Decemb
2009	Espace Arlaud, Lausanne, Switzerland. Irene Pijoan, Retrospective. Catalogue.		Lamont Gallery at Phillips Exe
2003	University of Nevada, Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery, Las Vegas, NV.		Massillon Museum, Massillon,
2002	Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA.		Carnegie Arts Center, Turlock
	Forum d'Art Contemporain, Sierre, Switzerland. <i>Wannabe</i> . Installation.	2002	In Heat, Pierogi Gallery, Brookly
1998	Bedford Gallery, Walnut Creek, CA. 20 year survey.	2003	The Summer of Lust, Geoffrey Y
	Institute of Contemporary Art, San Jose, CA. Non-Space Elements.	2004	Scenery, Rena Bransten Gallery,
1998	Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA.	2001	San Francisco Art Institute Facu
	California State University, Sacramento, CA.	2001	Acme at Himovitz, Michael Him
1996	U.C. Davis Memorial Union Gallery, Davis, CA.		Show Time, Rena Bransten Gall
1995	Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA.	2000	Paper Cuts, Rena Bransten Galle
1992	Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA.	1999	Snapshot, The Contemporary N
1991	Contemporary Arts Forum, Santa Barbara, CA. <i>3 into 3</i> , Installation.		Other Worldly, Walter/McBean
1990	Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA.	1998	New Acquisitions, University Ar
1989	Artspace, San Francisco, CA. Vena Cava, Installation.	1997	Drawing, California Museum of
1988	Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA.		Pulse: Works on Paper, No. B.I.
	California State University, Sacramento, CA, <i>The Body Visited</i> , Installation.	1996	Project Belmont, Montreux, Swi

1993	Rena Branster
	Robert Arneso
1992	From the Stuc

1995

1994

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Catalogue.

sco Arts Commission, Children's park. de la Fontaine, Geneva, Switzerland. ra City Library, Santa Clara, CA. well, and central hallway. Hospital, Oakland, CA. Corridor and donor wall. rba Buena Theater, San Francisco, CA. w Medical Center Research and Training Facility, Seattle, WA.

ances, lobby.

ım, Berkeley, CA. eum, Berkeley, CA. ry, Dallas, TX. Gallery, Dallas, TX. allas, TX. Gallery, Dallas, TX. llery, Walnut Creek, CA, December 18, 2016–March 5, 2017. levue, WA, June 30–October 22, 2017. Juntsville, AL, November 19–February 11, 2018. Pensacola, FL, March 2–June 17, 2018. dessa, TX, July 19–October 14, 2018. Daytona Beach, FL, December 8–January 27, 2019. Museum, Wausau, WI, March 2–May 26, 2019. marillo, TX, July 6–September 15, 2019. ia University, Morgantown, WV, nber 8, 2019. xeter Academy, Exeter, NH, January 14–March 7, 2020. on, OH, April 4–August 23, 2020. ck, CA, September 18–January 3, 2021. klyn, NY. Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA. ery, San Francisco, CA. culty exhibition, San Francisco, CA. imovitz Gallery, Sacramento, CA. allery, San Francisco, CA. allery, San Francisco, CA. Museum, Baltimore, MD. an Gallery, San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, CA. Art Museum, Berkeley, CA. of Art, Santa Rosa, CA. B.I.A.S. Gallery, Bennington, VT. "Pulse." Project Belmont, Montreux, Switzerland. Installation. Pool, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA. Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA. Brochure. Projet Lac, Montreux, Switzerland. Traveled to Geneva, Switzerland and Evian, France. en Gallery, San Francisco, CA. son Commemorative Exhibition, Lincoln Art Center, Lincoln, CA.

idio, Oakland Museum, Oakland, CA.

1991	42nd Biennial Exhibition of Contemporary American Painting, Corcorcan Gallery of Art, Washington, DC. Catalogue.
	Works on Paper, Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA.
1990	California from A to Z, The Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, OH.
	Contra Costa Artists, Saint Mary's College, Moraga, CA. Catalogue.
1989	Works on Paper 89, Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus, Salena Gallery, Brooklyn, NY.
1988	Director's Invitational, Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma, WA.
1987	San Francisco in Berlin 1987, Raab Gallery, West Berlin, Germany.
	(traveled to Raab Gallery, London, England). Two person exhibition.
	Concours Bourses, Palais des Congrès, Montreux, Switzerland.
	Portrait/Self-Portrait, Artspace, San Francisco, CA.
	Skowhegan: A Ten-Year Retrospective 1975–1985, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York, NY.
	(traveled).
1986	Paravent: Extending the Range of Expression, Artspace, San Francisco, CA. Catalogue.
	New Horizons 9 Artists, Stella Polaris Gallery, Los Angeles, CA.
	Foundry/Process, St. John's College, Santa Fe, NM.
	Traveled to North Dakota Museum of Art, Grand Forks, ND.
1985	New Horizons in American Art: 1985 Exxon National Exhibition.
	The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY. Catalogue.
	San Francisco Bay Area Painting, Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, University of Nebraska,
	Lincoln, NE. Catalogue
	Rockefeller Retrospective: Visiting Artists, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC.
	Catalogue.
1000	SF - LA, Gilles Mansillon Gallery, Los Angeles, CA.
1983	Works by Faculty, San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, CA.
1982	Soroban Gallery, Wellfleet, MA.
1001	The Southeast Seven V, Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Winston-Salem, NC.
1981	Talent, Allan Stone Gallery, New York, NY.
1000	Faculty Exhibition, The University of Georgia, Athens, GA.
1980	New Affirmations, Oakland Museum, Oakland, CA.

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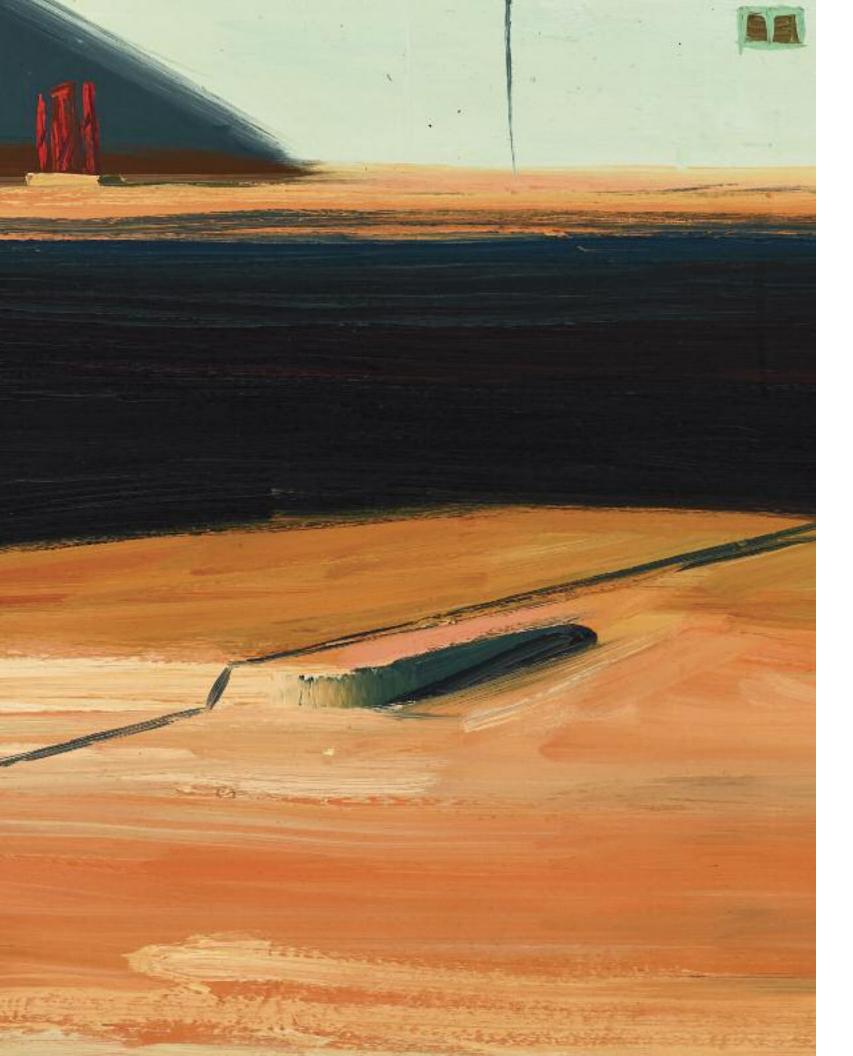
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#### SELECTED COLLECTIONS

The Alameda Arts Commission Estate of Paule Anglim, San Francisco, CA Estate of Robert Arneson and Sandra Shannonhouse, Benicia, CA Chris Barnett, Sterling Fine Art Services Rena Bransten, San Francisco, CA Dr. G. Austin Conkey, San Francisco, CA Lisa Dennison, New York, NY Estate of Roy de Forest, Port Costa, CA Highland Hospital, Oakland, CA Craig & Emiko Nagasawa, Berkeley, CA Manuel Neri, Benicia, CA Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA Leonard Post, New York, NY Rena Rosenwasser & Penny Cooper, Berkeley, CA San Francisco Arts Commission Santa Clara Public Library, Santa Clara, CA Estate of Michael Smith, San Francisco, CA University of California at Berkeley Art Museum Harbor View Research and Training Building, University of Washington, Seattle, WA Estate of Ann Walker, Artspace



# RICHARD SHEEHAN

In 1978 a quick errand took me from the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston to the Alpha Gallery on Newbury Street. I was to deliver a congratulatory message to Richard Sheehan at his exhibition opening. Having never met him or seen his work, it did not occur to me on that humid day that this might be anything but a brisk walk, a stop on the way home. But once I walked up the steps and entered the crowded gallery, wading through the voices and conversations to the walls beyond, the importance of the errand became clear. Staying on the perimeter of the gallery in a clockwise circle, I got as close as I could. The paintings, each one a full stop, were alluring in their honesty in describing a fleeting ordinary scene. The presence of the viewer is unspoken and temporary. I thought of John Sloan, Fairfield Porter, and the intimacy of the artist's mind and thoughts; how the acts of looking and seeing are two very different endeavors – what we see and feel is unique to our individual histories and the ability to be in the present moment. To absorb the moment that we are witnessing, Sheehan is in the transportation business – transporting the viewer to the location where the artist is standing. You are there with him.

My intrigue with Sheehan's paintings deepened over the ensuing decades. There was nothing about Sheehan's childhood in Dorchester, Massachusetts, attending Boston Latin, or having a rock band in high school that would suggest that a painter with an exquisite eye like his would emerge. Where Donny Wahlberg and the New Kids on the Block also grew up, the arts were not embedded in the neighborhood. However, sometimes one's earliest experiences and teachers stay with you the longest.

A former Yale classmate Howie Lee Weiss, a longtime close friend, artistic confidante and artist, forgot nothing:

"At Massachusetts College of Art, Richard studied with and emulated the painter George Nick in his undergraduate studies. In many ways this formed a solid early core and those early lessons remained with him always. In those early classes Richard was taught how to 'heighten color and boost up light,' a concept that he continued to be fascinated with and that he embedded in each painting. These early classes under the mentorship of Nick stayed with him as he went on to Yale Graduate School of Art and Architecture for an MFA, where he received the Elizabeth Canfield Hicks Memorial Scholarship. While at Yale, Richard studied with William Bailey, Bernard Chaet, Lester Johnson, and John Walker, and also, but less so, with Al Held.

"Bailey taught the figure painting class at Yale and Richard struggled at first, as the class started from the premise of painting with three muted colors only. This was a shock at first to Richard's high-key, jazzed-up palette – but with time he figured out the system. Gradually and slowly Bailey added additional colors to the mix. Stripping painting ideas down to basics, then building back up, was in many ways like learning to speak all over again.

"Bernard Chaet looked out for Richard as his advisor and they shared their love of the Boston area. I specifically remember Richard having a critique one day about his still life paintings of objects placed on the floor, the viewpoint being bird's eye downward. Chaet suggested he 'look up and out.' I remember discussing this simple suggestion with Richard and how it allowed him to venture more into landscape – looking up and out.

"One day Sheehan and Howie Lee Weiss visited John Walker's studio in New Haven – a cavernous studio with 10 giant abstractions in progress, each with their own set of paints. That day in 1975, witnessing Walker's studio became etched in their minds. They spoke of it forever after. Years later Weiss remembered Richard talking about wanting to imbue Walker's kind of physical presence into his realistic landscapes. Richard saw the big Walker abstractions as a challenge, while also something to emulate and incorporate into his scenes.

"Richard's approach was always direct and formal: Color, light, form, drawing, composition, space and all the things you might expect. When critiquing students he wasn't overly focused on social, political, cultural or personal content, but preferred to address students' paintings for their formal qualities, giving students little tips and insider's tricks he himself learned about color mixing, drawing, values and moretrying to help each student make each picture better on its own terms utilizing basic, demonstrative and practical advice.

"At upper level critiques Richard was one to hold his stance, and argue his passionate point if necessary. Intense, heated and loud discussions, disagreements in the thick of battle, have been reported, but with everyone being friends again later in the evening or at least by the next day.

"An early influence was the big John Singer Sargent painting, *The Daughters of Edward Darley Boit*, 1882, at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts; he was impressed always by Sargent's swift hand and confidence. Wayne Thiebaud was an artist whom Richard respected and could never get enough of. Edgar Degas, Edward Hopper, Richard Diebenkorn, George Nick, and John Walker were all important chapters of Richard's visual vocabulary. Sheehan loved the quality Ralph Goings achieved in his paintings. Richard shared how American he thought Goings was. Giants like Matisse and Picasso were quite important to him." He and Weiss would go back and forth over which one was better or more important. It was a conversation they never tired of.

"Sheehan and Weiss talked endlessly about Warhol and Lichtenstein, discussing their pop ideas, clarity of image, their intent and their fame. Coke bottles, Brillo Boxes, Jackie O, Elvis, Mickey, and all the Comic Book Paintings.... Well, this was America. Warhol and Lichtenstein did it, and this fascinated them-this touched Richard."

Another Yale classmate, Elizabeth Peak, who taught with Sheehan in the Yale Summer Art program after their first year of graduate school, wrote:

"In passing one day Richard said that he tried not to talk about how quickly he painted because he didn't want anyone getting the wrong idea about his work. More importantly Richard wanted his speed to be understood for what it had become: his ability to capture a unique moment in time, in fluid brush strokes almost without regard to the size of the canvas. His paintings look as if they appear by magic as if with no effort or plan.

"However, it was Richard's particular ability to 'see' or imagine a painting from looking around him, systematically prepare a canvas for it, a particular size and shape. Then when he returns to the location ready to paint he has his attack in his mind. Working from the actual location helps him structure the painting although when you or I look at the location and compare it to the work, we may not have originally seen what he saw.

"With the variables of scale, composition, color, time of day he would relate them to each other in one integrated statement in paint. He rarely added anything extraneous, no random people walking through the scene or a fallen bicycle, etc., unless it worked within the whole. His goal was a visual statement not a literal one. Not a story about the light on a certain bridge at a time of day when people got off work or something, but the way the light defined the moment and using the bridge or roadway, as a vehicle for that particular moment. We never discussed how his religious beliefs may have informed his work but if there is a God, it's expressed in these moments.

"He often told the story of someone walking up to him as he painted wondering why there were no people in the painting and how he'd try to explain the painting didn't need them. Richard mainly painted in the environs of his home turf of Dorchester, Massachusetts and later, Cumberland, Rhode Island. The interloper would walk away marveling and yet still wondering. Later, Richard took on the challenge of painting subjects that were so commonplace that no one could ask what he was painting even if they may wonder why."

—Elizabeth J. Peak, 2018

Sheehan worked outdoors, with an old mail truck carrying his easel and canvases, which he set up on highways in the Rhode Island and Massachusetts suburbs. He was inspired by the structural elements of bridges, overpasses and the horizons surrounding and beyond the freeway. The weather and time of year dictated the palette and colors in his work.

His earliest paintings were of buildings, houses, backyards – local scenes depicting life around the Boston area. But eventually these local scenes gave way to less personal, large, iconic images of highway bridges and underpasses, singular images that spoke of an American landscape. Richard changed from a painter of common daily places – to a painter of "American Monuments."

In these highway paintings one can see all the influences of Sheehan's painting heroes. Before and during his first West Coast show in November 1982, Sheehan attracted immediate attention from artists and collectors alike – the show sold out. Soon he was exhibiting in Chicago, New York and Houston. Artists Richard McLean and Wayne Thiebaud saw the exhibition and admired Sheehan's paintings – how he handled paint, composition and color.

McLean bought a small painting because "he wanted to take it home and study it." Thiebaud, in his classic stance – arms folded against his chest, feet apart – announced that Sheehan was "an artist's artist." With the heat emanating from the large summer paintings, the feeling of a sunburn standing in front of the hot yellows, saturated oranges and burning sand of the roadways was psychological if not physical. As Sheehan's paintings got larger and more abstract, West Coast art critics assumed he was a West Coast artist, a student of Elmer Bischoff or Richard Diebenkorn due to his palette and the light emanating from his paintings.

"You can hang him between a de Kooning and a Thiebaud, and he holds up – Sheehan can hold the wall. He is not going anywhere. You know, you can't do that with very many artists," Allan Stone said. It was a pronouncement. Stated as a matter of fact, not as a biased opinion. He had done this exact installation on a second-floor hallway landing of his home, outside his bedroom.

Ten years later I saw a big horizontal Sheehan landscape hanging over a fireplace in Allan's house in Maine next to a Richard Estes painting. Allan Stone owned 37 paintings by Richard Sheehan. That he saw Sheehan's work in the modest 800-square-foot shoebox space of my first San Francisco gallery brought me inordinate pleasure. Two subsequent solo shows at Allan Stone Gallery in 1984 and 1986 marked Sheehan's first one man exhibitions in New York City, an enormous rite of passage for any artist.

Mark Johnson, who was teaching freshman foundation at SFAI, was a regular at my gallery and would bring his students to see the exhibitions, as would Barbara Rogers, Inez Storer and Carlos Villa. After numerous classes of SFAI students came to 126 Post Street to see Richard Sheehan's shows in 1982 and 1984, and to the 23 Grant Avenue space in 1987, a visiting lecture at SFAI was scheduled for Richard's next trip to San Francisco. At 800 Chestnut Street the students and faculty packed the room – you could not breathe. It was a windowless seminar room on the north side of the lower level, on the right of the big ramp, across from the ceramics studio. Richard was as expressive and dynamic as his paintings, with a heavy Boston accent!

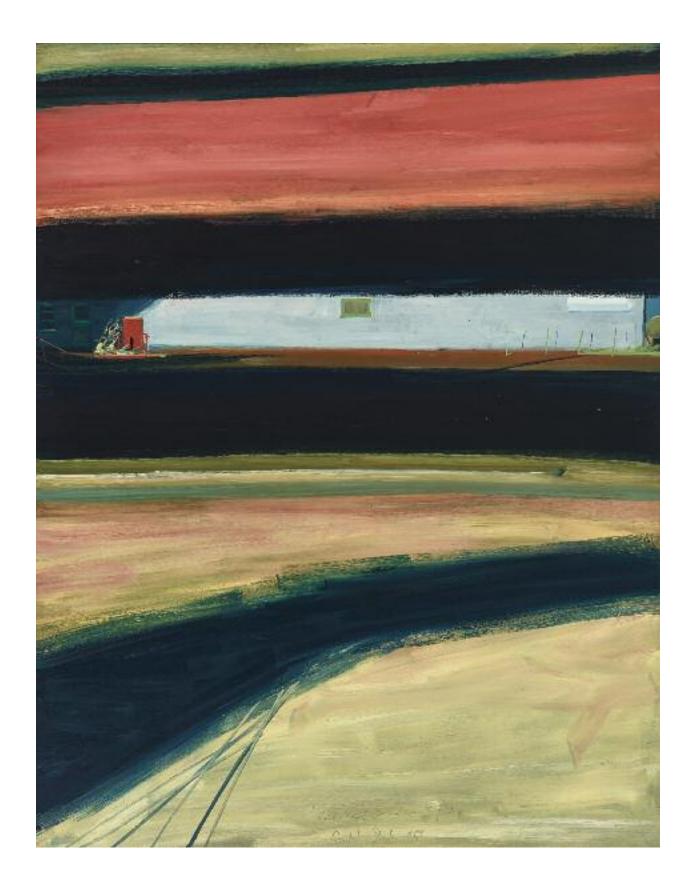
Richard's bottom line message to students was, after acquiring drawing skills, to let those skills become a part of your skin so you can forget about them and go on. He wasn't recommending drawing from life and staying in representation – you needed the tools to begin with. The subject as a realistic image was not as important as the process or experience of making the painting.

The works from 1991–2006 pushed Sheehan away from the representational into the conceptual. He deliberately moved himself out of his comfort zone. Richard wanted to pay homage to Franz Kline, JFK, the Beatles, and the devastating importance of the Vietnam War within his paintings. "How?" was the question. Using the McDonald's billboards and roadside signs was the idea he had begun to experiment with. He stepped back from his galleries (which was easy to do as two had closed during the Persian Gulf War and ensuing recession) and the art market to shift his subject matter without pressure or judgement. This also allowed Sheehan the opportunity and time to work inside a studio at home, instead of by an icy freeway in the winter snow or in the heat and humidity of a Rhode Island summer.

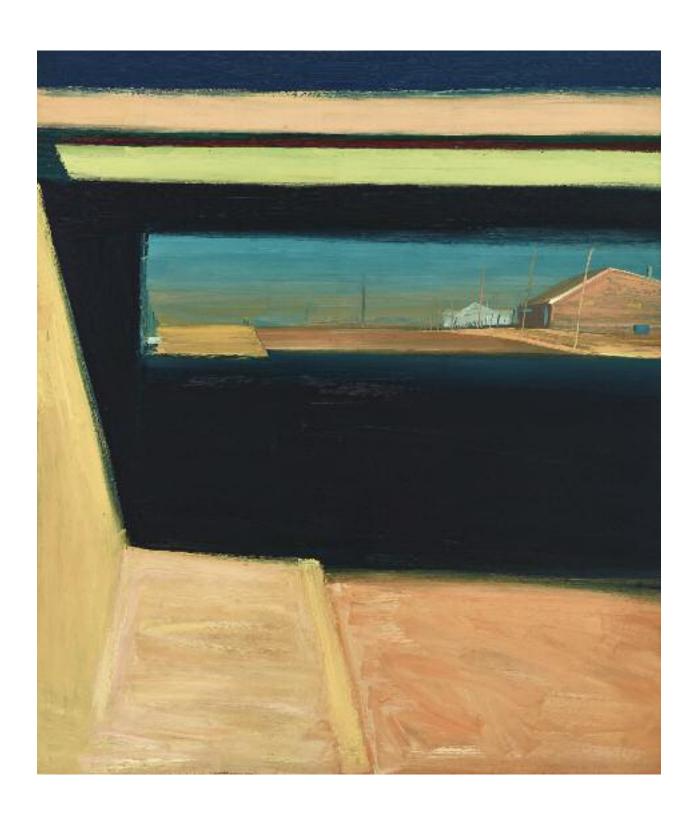
The billboards inside the small 1982 landscape paintings, *Van's Auto Body* and *Billboard on Freeport Street*, were always there. In the larger, later paintings of the 1990s they grew in importance as they became beacons, icons of American history and culture.

NEPONSET BRIDGE 89

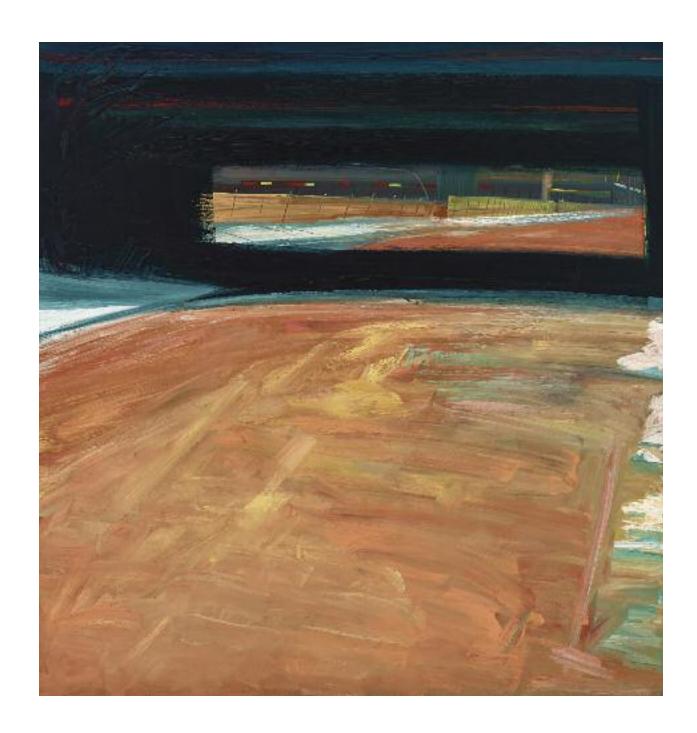
oil on prepared cotton duck 92" h x 72" w 1989 Courtesy of the Sheehan Family Trust



EXPRESSWAY BRIDGE, SUPERBOWL SUNDAY oil on prepared cotton duck 92" h x 72" w 1989 Courtesy of the Sheehan Family Trust



FIRST SNOW & BRIDGE oil on prepared cotton duck 76" h x 72" w 1988 Courtesy of the Sheehan Family Trust



NEPONSET USA #1 oil on prepared cotton duck 54" h x 54" w 1987 Courtesy of the Sheehan Family Trust



UNTITLED (PIZZA HUT) oil on prepared cotton duck 82" h x 76" w 1991–1992 Courtesy of the Sheehan Family Trust



MOBIL-QUAKER-HIGHWAY-UXBRIDGE, MA oil on prepared cotton duck 25½" h x 49½" w 1992

Courtesy of the Sheehan Family Trust



#### RICHARD SHEEHAN (1953-2006)

		SELECTED	GROUP EXHIBITIONS
1953	Born in Boston, Massachusetts	2017	360: Positive Care Clinic, UCS
EDUCATION		2016	I Can See For Miles, Allan Sto
			December Salon Show, Alpha SKSRE, San Francisco, CA.
1977	Yale University, New Haven, CT, M.F.A. Degree	2015	Exhibition to Inaugurate our N
1975	Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA, B.F.A. Degree	2010	360: Positive Care Clinic, UCS
			SKSRE, San Francisco, CA.
VISITING	ARTIST & LECTURER	2014	Sight Specific, Concord Art A
		2013	Summer Selections, Alpha Ga
1995	Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD.	2011–12	Small Works, Alpha Gallery, B
1994	Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI.	2003	Landscapes Seen and Imagin
1992	The Boston Museum School, Boston, MA.		Lincoln, MA.
1989	Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT, Resident Critic.	1996	The Future of the Past: Fiftee
	Boston University, Boston, MA.		The Boston Athenæ
	Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT.	1996	Illustrious History, 1871 – Pres
1988	Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT, Resident Critic.		Montgomery Gallery, San Fran
	San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, CA.	1992	After 25 Years, A New Beginr
	School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL.	1992	America From the Driver's Sea
	Ox-Bow, Saugatuck, MI.		Catalogue.
1987	University of California, Davis, CA.	1991	Boston Art Dealers Association
400/	School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL.	1990	37 Painters and Sculptors: Or
1986	Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT, Resident Critic.		Diverse Contemporary Lands
1985	Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, Saltzman Visiting Lecturer.		Selected Acquisitions and Re
1984	Yale University, New Haven, CT.	1989	The Landscape Observed, Ma
1983	California College of Arts and Crafts, Oakland, CA.		Landscape/Cityscape, Franz E
1982	Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Brandeis University, Waltham, MA.	1988	Artists See Nature, College of
1702	California College of Arts and Crafts, Oakland, CA.		Landscape/Cityscape, Franz E
1981	Yale University, New Haven, CT.	100/	The Contemporary Romantic
1978	Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA.	1986	Fifth Anniversary Exhibition, F
1770	Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA.	1985	Faculty and Alumni Exhibition
		1984	The Urban Landscape, Wilhel
SOLO EXI	HIBITIONS		Eight Painters at Harvard, Car Cambridge, MA.
0040			Urban Visions/Countryside Vi
2010	Alpha Gallery, Boston, MA.		Durham, NH.
1991	Alpha Gallery, Boston, MA.		New England Landscape, New
1990	Jeremy Stone Gallery, San Francisco, CA.	1983	Contemporary Realist Painting
1989	Shasta College, Redding, CA. Alpha Gallery, Boston, MA.	1,00	On Paper, Jeremy Stone Galle
1988	Roger Ramsay Gallery, Chicago, IL.	1982	A Private Vision: Contempora
1700	Jeremy Stone Gallery, San Francisco, CA.		Museum of Fine Art
1987	Jeremy Stone Gallery, San Francisco, CA.	1982	Herbert W. Plimpton Collection
1986	Wilhelm Gallery, Houston, TX.		Waltham, MA.
1700	Alpha Gallery, Boston, MA.		Local Visions: The Urban Envi
	Allan Stone Gallery, New York, NY.		of Technology, Cam
1985	Alpha Gallery, Boston, MA.	1980	New England Realists, Northe
1984	Jeremy Stone Gallery, San Francisco, CA.	1979	American Realist Painters, Ma
	Allan Stone Gallery, New York, NY.		Art of the State, Rose Art Mus
1983	Roger Ramsay Gallery, Chicago, IL.	1977	New Talent, Alpha Gallery, Bc
	Alpha Gallery, Boston, MA.		
1982	Jeremy Stone Gallery, San Francisco, CA.	AWARDS	
1981	Alpha Gallery, Boston, MA.		
1978	Connecticut College, New London, CT.	1979	Fellowship Grant, Massachuse
	Alpha Gallery, Boston, MA.	1977	Elizabeth Canfield Hicks Mem

CSF, San Francisco, CA. Stone Projects, New York, NY, June 2–August 12. ha Gallery, Boston, MA. r New Location, Alpha Gallery, Boston, MA. CSF, San Francisco, CA. Association, Concord, MA, curated by George Nick. Gallery, Boston, MA. , Boston, MA. jined: Sense of Place, deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, een Contemporary Realists Paint Boston, aæum, Boston, MA, April - May. resent, Salander-O'Reilly Galleries, New York, NY, September; rancisco, CA, November-December. Catalogue. inning, Alpha Gallery, Boston, MA. Seat, Museum of Our National Heritage, Lexington, MA. tion: Selections, Bank of Boston, Boston, MA. On View, ABC/Capital Cities, Inc., New York, NY. Catalogue. dscape, One Market Plaza, San Francisco, CA. *Recent Work,* Jeremy Stone Gallery, San Francisco, CA. Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD. z Bader Gallery, Washington, DC. of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, IL. z Bader Gallery, Washington, DC. tic Landscape, Jeremy Stone Gallery, San Francisco, CA. , Roger Ramsay Gallery, Chicago, IL. ion, Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA. nelm Gallery, Houston, TX. Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts, Harvard University, Views, University Galleries, University of New Hampshire, Newport Art Museum, Newport, RI. tings, A Selection, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA. allery, San Francisco, CA. orary Art from the Graham Gund Collection, Arts, Boston, MA. ction of Realist Art, Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University,

*nvirons*, Hayden Corridor Gallery, Massachusetts Institute ambridge, MA.

theastern University, Boston, MA.

Marilyn Pearl Gallery, New York, NY.

luseum, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA.

Boston, MA.

usetts Council on the Arts and Humanities emorial Scholarship, Yale University, New Haven, CT.

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#### SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Acadia Wells Fargo Insurance, New York, NY Wayne Andersen, Boston, MA Beth Barker, San Francisco, CA Beal & Company, Boston, MA Adrian & Dan Blumberg, Lafayette, CA Boston City Hospital William Mathews Brooks, San Francisco, CA Cambrian Capital, Manchester, MA Chase Manhattan Bank Ron & Francoise Clyman, Kentfield, CA Consolidated Freightways, San Francisco, CA Coopers & Lybrand, Boston, MA deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Lincoln, MA Gadsby Hannah, Boston, MA Abe Garfield, San Francisco, CA Rob & Cyd Greer, St. Helena, CA John & Linda Gruber, Ross, CA The Gund Collection, Cambridge, MA Joseph & Jody Horowitz, San Francisco, CA Elizabeth King, Sausalito, CA Beth & Stephen Landsman, Chicago, IL Montgomery Securities, San Francisco, CA Morrison-Foerster, San Francisco, CA Northwestern National Bank, St. Paul, MN Stephen & Susan Paine Collection PaineWebber Group Pernod Ricard USA, Purchase, NY Robertson, Colman & Stephens, San Francisco, CA Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA Huret, Rothenberg & Co., San Francisco, CA Shearson Lehman Brothers Richard & Darlene McLean, Oakland, CA Sandy Robertson, San Francisco, CA Alan Rothenberg, San Francisco, CA Douglas & Ellen Rosenberg, Kentfield, CA John Sanger, San Francisco, CA Alan & Ruth Stein, San Francisco, CA Paul & Ellie Stein, Tiburon, CA Allan Stone, New York, NY Ernst & Gail von Metzsch, Manchester, MA Thomas Weisel Partners, San Francisco, CA Wellington Management Company, Boston, MA Merrill Lynch, San Francisco, CA Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT Mary Zlot, San Francisco, CA

#### CREDITS

This catalogue accompanies the exhibition A+, Susan Hauptman, Irene Pijoan and Richard Sheehan guest curated by Jeremy Stone, and held at San Francisco Art Institute Fort Mason Campus, Pier 2, Main Gallery, San Francisco from January 2nd through February 3rd, 2019

Catalogue Editors: Stephanie Boris, Marguerite Cullman Photography: Ira Shrank Photography, San Francisco, CA [except for Susan Hauptman, *Self Portrait (La Perla #1) and Self Protrait (With Branch)*] Design: Marcia Loeb Graphic Design, Mill Valley, CA Printing: AMP Printing, Inc., Dublin, CA Printed and bound in the United States

Jeremy Stone curated her first exhibition, *Thirty Years of Box Construction*, in 1979, for the Sunne Savage Gallery, Boston, MA. She has been working in the art world since she was 16 years old, in New York City, Boston and San Francisco. Her eponymous San Francisco gallery opened in 1982 and mounted over 80 exhibitions before closing in 1991. She is the managing member of Business Matters in the Visual Arts LLC, a fine art appraisal and expert witness practice, www.bmva.biz and Cullman Stone LLC, an arts advisory practice, www.cullmanstone.com

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