

Angelina Gualdoni

Held in Place, Light in Hand

January 9 - February 15, 2014



Asya Geisberg Gallery is proud to present "Held in Place, Light in Hand", an exhibition of paintings by Angelina Gualdoni. This will be the artist's second solo exhibition with the gallery. Gualdoni's captivating new series departs from the purer abstract spaces in her previous exhibition, and returns to modes of representation that both emerge from and recede into her signature pours. Based on suggestions of interiors and still life, each painting distinctively uses geometric patterns, often fragmented, that weave through the picture plane and juxtapose the ethereal washes of color. Often using collage and digitally manipulated photos taken by the artist as her starting point, Gualdoni continues her interest in the deconstruction of space alongside familiar concerns such as the existence of shape as a void in shadow, the tension of positive and negative, and absence and presence of quasi-identifiable objects. Plant leaves echo triangular shapes elsewhere, film noir-striped shadows glow from an unseen venetian blind, and always a limpid pool of glorious color overwhelms any clear sense of "here" or "there."

Gualdoni's gamesmanship never allows the depicted object or space to be the protagonist of the story. Instead, the subject becomes the complicated play between background and foreground, as stains overtake form, and borders are transgressed by inchoate areas. The middle ground functions as a mask, window, or portal through which the viewer attempts to see. The pour courses through, uncontrollable, while the frames and patterns attempt to contain and detain the flow. While clearly honoring Matisse, Sonia Delaunay, and Braque among others, she continues to elide the tropes of the still life tradition. Instead of pointing to symbolic or personal meaning, Gualdoni's riffs on Post-Impressionism and Cubism argue for a constant flux of time and space.

The porous spaces in Gualdoni's paintings point to the fluidity of roles within the domestic sphere and of time itself, implied by the slow seepage of paint or quick stroke of the paintbrush. Her works show the contemporary position of painting at its best- unflinchingly referential, boldly mixing traditions and personal stylistic rituals, and emphatically necessary to our current condition.

Angelina Gualdoni earned her BFA from the Maryland Institute, College of Art, Baltimore, and her MFA from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Gualdoni has shown both nationally and internationally, with select solo exhibitions at Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, the St. Louis Art Museum, and Kavi Gupta Gallery. Her work has been included in exhibitions at Dia:Beacon, the Queens Museum of Art, the Orlando Museum of Art, Florida, the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Connecticut, and Susan Inglett Gallery, New York, among others. She is a recipient of the New York Foundation for the Arts Grant, 2008, the Pollock-Krasner Grant, 2007, and was an Artadia Artist in Residence at the International Studio and Curatorial Program in 2009. Her work has been featured in many publications including The New York Times, Chicago Sun-Times, and Art in America, and can be found in public collections such as the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, the Saatchi Collection, and the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, Kansas. Gualdoni is a founding member of Regina Rex, an artist-run collaborative gallery in Ridgewood, New York.



Whatever it Is, Wherever you Are 2013. Oil and acrylic on canvas, 50" x 47".



Eclipse, 2013. Oil and acrylic on canvas, 31" x 24".