

Ruth Pastine:

PRESENT TENSE

March 15-May 24, 2015

Without reflective surfaces, plastics or resins, Pastine makes paintings that turn the gallery into a vivid sensorium.

- David M. Roth, SQUARECYLINDER.com (September 9, 2014)

Ruth Pastine: Present Tense, shares the artist's latest advances in showing perceptual interactions of color and light. Ruth Pastine's pure painting is noted for creating an optically sublime experience of ethereal light in an indefinable space.

Having come from New York to California over a decade ago, Pastine's artistic influences echo the same route, being first from the post-war New York movements of minimal abstraction and color field painting and then from the 1960's Los Angeles movement of "Light and Space". Unlike the LA movement, however, she creates the perception of levitating blocks of luminous color, not by using contemporary plastics and polymers, but classic oil paint.

A meticulous and gifted colorist steeped in color theory, Pastine applies innumerable, small strokes of color that leave not a whisper of the human hand. The resulting seamless gradients of color painted on beveled canvases appear suspended in space. Thus we are pulled in and enveloped in modulations of color. By juxtaposing a pre-defined set of complementary colors differently nuanced in every painting and in every pastel, the artist brings us to experience the immateriality of color.

This exhibit follows up her survey show, *Attraction: Paintings and Pastel Works on Paper 1993-2014* at the Lancaster Museum of Art and History (MOAH). It includes a few samples of the artist's earlier series, like the *Limitless Series*, in which gradations of color radiate across the canvas imperceptively transforming hue. The majority on display are from her more recent series that are structured as vibrating columns of color. Such profound resonance is apparent even in her paradoxical *Gray Series* of pastels exhibited here for the first time. Undoubtedly however the key feature of this exhibit is the *Present Tense Series*- Pastine's next, fresh generation of work which breaks out of darker oppositions into ever more reverberant blendings that live in the present moment.

Ruth Pastine was born in New York City in 1964. She attended The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York and received her BFA in 1987. Pastine was awarded a travel and research grant to attend the Rietveld Akademie, in Amsterdam, Netherlands from 1987-1988. She subsequently received an MFA in 1993 from Hunter College of the City University of New York. In 2001 Pastine relocated from New York City to Southern California where she currently lives and works.

The painter has exhibited widely in the United States and Japan, and has art included in many public and corporate collections. Additional recent exhibits included: *MIND'S EYE / Sense Certainty Series*, Paintings and Pastel Works on Paper at Brian Gross Fine Art, San Francisco in 2014; *Interplay*, Paintings and Pastel Works on Paper at Scott White Contemporary Art, La Jolla in 2013; and inclusion in an Exhibition of Selected Artworks at Ace Gallery, Beverly Hills & Los Angeles during 2015 and 2014.

Color is a vehicle for experience...for engaging in the present moment of discovery.

— Ruth Pastine