

Susan Eley

Fine Art

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 17, 2012

REVEALED:
The Layered & Mixed Media Paintings of
Tracy Silva Barbosa & Barbara Strasen

Opening Reception: Wednesday, November 7, 6-8 pm
On View from November 7-December 31

Life is layered. Most things are not what they seem. And if they are, there's usually another story behind what we observe on the face. Many artists choose to work in layers because it enables them to explore a complex world and respond in a way to meet life's ambiguity and juxtapositions.

REVEALED features two artists who use very different media—Barbara Strasen, digital imagery overlaid with drawings and silk screens on clear Mylar; and Tracy Silva Barbosa, photo transfer, gold leaf and acrylic paint on canvas. Both artists reveal life's intricacies, ironies and rare beauty where we least expect to find them.

REVEALED features eight works by Strasen and a half a dozen paintings on canvas and glass by Barbosa.

Barbara Strasen: ARTIST STATEMENT

Barbara Strasen's work is concerned with layer and meaning, reflections upon the complexities of daily life. This exhibition presents a survey of Strasen's layered, transparent paintings. These are artworks on layers of clear Mylar or Plexiglas, made up of multiple images, which reveal the images in a carefully scripted overlapping sequence. The choice of images, and their size, color and the order in which they appear, is designed to contrast and surprise, arresting the viewer with unexpected juxtapositions.

"My working process with these transparent works is to make many drawn and painted layers, independent of each other. These layers are inspired by many sources: popular culture, anthropology, art history, science, and daily life. When it is time to assemble a finished work, I try different combinations

of layers and, when I am astonished or laugh, I go with that particular combination. What remains is to visually weave the layers together, front to back, and to further reveal these found connections.

"I am interested in making artifacts from the contents of our collective daily lives, imagining these artifacts to be time capsules for future cultures. Our lives are complex, and involve many contradictions: I hope to reflect this complexity in my work. My perennial focus is in finding the connections among unlike images. By consciously revealing these connections, I hope to help with the integration of the contradictions within each of us."

— Barbara Strasen

Tracy Silva Barbosa: ARTIST STATEMENT

As an artist, I am concerned with traditional landscape issues in our current modern environment. I employ both glass sculpture and acrylic painting on canvas to create light and landscape out of an otherwise abstract atmosphere. My work uses the juxtaposition of certain imagery to create a delicate narrative vocabulary to begin addressing issues such as age, sensuality and transcendence. With the spare flight of birds and twisted stalks of plastic flora, it is my intention to create a lyrical motion, which reflects the passage of time as alluded to in the form of number patterns that act as shadow and echo the structure of any given bit of imagery. Often sequential moments are represented together, animating these asymmetrical compositions with a seemingly natural yet fabricated motion that's easy for the mind's eye to follow. These composite landscapes are assembled from my own photography along with archived scientific drawings, diagrams and catalogues. Juxtaposing this with natural paint textures and various applications of gold, silver and copper leaf, I attempt to conjure a rich psychic realm full of color, balance and harmony.

— Tracy Silva Barbosa

Barbara Strasen lives in Los Angeles, CA. She has been featured in SEFA's group show "BLAZE" (2008). This is her first solo exhibition with the gallery. ***Tracy Silva Barbosa*** lives in Taunton, MA. She has participated in many group shows and art fairs with SEFA. This is her second solo show with the gallery, following the success of "Hermanos + Barbosa" (2008). For more biographical information about the artists, please contact the gallery.