

Susan Eley

Fine Art

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

AUG 21, 2014

***MAPPING A PLACE:
LISA PRESSMAN & JOSEPH PICCILLO***

September 10-October 25, 2014

OPENING RECEPTION: WEDNESDAY, September 10, 6-8 pm

We are delighted to present *Mapping A Place: Paintings by Lisa Pressman & Joseph Piccillo*, on view from September 10-October 25, 2014. The exhibition explores how two artists conjure place within the limited confines of a canvas, Piccillo through a reductive process focused on creating minimal color, form and line; and Pressman by building up layers in oil and cold wax and scraping and excavating to reveal what lies beneath. Both artists were featured in SEFA's summer's group show "Shape Shifting" (2013), and Pressman in "Making Their Mark," a group show curated by SEFA artist Amber George (2011).

JOSEPH PICCILLO

Joseph Piccillo, from Bucks County, PA, Pennsylvania, is a self-taught artist who paints Rothko-like bands of color, with more defined edges and less of a sense of washed color. Look closely at these edges to see shimmering lines emerging as horizontal and vertical drips, carrying the eye out of the pure color, as a trail on a map. Piccillo achieves his unique finish on the canvas, seemingly flat but on close inspection textured and nuanced, with a build up of 6-8 layers of glazed acrylics on canvas.

Piccillo began his career as a traditional landscape painter. Some five years ago he had a breakthrough after looking at his paintings with a fresh eye. While making a preparatory sketch, Piccillo realized that the sketch—a vertical line for a tree and a horizontal line for a horizon—expressed all there was to express. Landscape is line, shape and color, if examined through a reductive lens. By limiting himself to these three basic elements, and

eventually to a square canvas, the artist realized that these limitations created endless possibilities. In *Mapping A Place* Piccillo debuts his figurative paintings, a suite of six works that demonstrate a new study of the figure, communicated by the sweep or curve of a line against saturated color.



LISA PRESSMAN

Lisa Pressman, who lives and works in West Orange, New Jersey, will be represented by a range of paintings completed in the past 4-5 years, which shows her constantly shifting and evolving to find new expressions in paint. In her earlier work, Pressman incorporated collage elements—book and journal pages and remnants of old papers—to reference an historical time and place.

Her most recent paintings forego the collage elements in favor of pushing the boundaries of paint alone. Lisa works in both oil, cold wax and encaustic. All of these materials lead to rich layered paintings. She considers her method a kind of excavation, revealing both the history of the painting itself, as well as her own intellectual and creative journey through the process of making an artwork.

