

Susan Eley

Fine Art

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CAROLE EISNER

Swimmers & Dancers ***Paintings from the 1980s and 1990s***

January 14-February 25, 2015

OPENING RECEPTION: Thursday, January 14, 6-8 pm

We are delighted to announce the opening **of *SWIMMERS AND DANCERS: Carole Eisner's Paintings from the 1980s and 1990s***. This is Eisner's second solo exhibition of paintings at SEFA, following the exhibition *Geometric Abstract Paintings* held in the spring of 2013.

SWIMMERS AND DANCERS opens on Thursday, January 14 with a reception from 6-8 pm, and remains on view through February 25.

Eisner has been active as both a painter and a sculptor since the 1960s. After receiving a BFA in painting from Syracuse University, Eisner worked as a designer for several fashion houses in New York City before turning to full time painting and sculpture. As she developed as an artist over the decades, there was a cross influence between her work in both sculpture and painting, as she moved through phases of abstraction and figuration. After exploring the freedom of Jackson Pollock's drip paintings, the Abstract Expressionism of Helen Frankenthaler and Hans Hofmann, Eisner began to paint in a geometric style, resulting in a series of about 30 paintings made between 1979-1982. This series was driven by an intellectual pursuit with shape, line and color. "I was intrigued by the relationship of colors in juxtaposition to each other. It was a season of color field painting, and I developed a visual vocabulary of forms to animate the canvas," says Eisner. "After I achieved what I had set out to do in the geometric series, I turned to looser, figurative work. I wanted to portray energy, action and color and realized I had missed the emotional, human element."

Watching her children involved in dance and sports had a profound impact on the body of paintings that ensued. As Eisner watched countless ballet, swimming and wrestling events, she set out to capture this fluidity and action in paint.

At the same time Eisner had discovered striated brushes in a commercial paint store. These tools led to a new style of applying paint that was looser, freer. She created textures, stripes and experimented with crosshatching and layering. This was the antithesis of the

saturated, opaque quality of the geometric paintings, and she soon found herself immersed in an exciting new phase that she would pursue for the next two decades. Eisner also returned to the sketchbooks she had created for Youth Guild Liz Claiborne, John Weitz, Jonathan Logan and other fashion houses. The lithe, fluid forms in her sketchpads made a comeback in her paintings, but now instead of serving as mannequins for the clothes, they were leaping, bending, swimming and dancing across the canvas. Eisner added objects, such as boats, flowers, fish and geometric forms, to create focal points and to further electrify the surface of the canvas.

Colors as vibrant and varied as she had always favored--blues to evoke water, but also greys, violets, reds and greens--were born in Eisner's studio, but now were brushed, blended and tossed, matching the intensity and energy of the dancers and swimmers.

EISNER BIO

Carole Eisner was born and raised in New York City and received a BFA from Syracuse University. She has had eight solo shows in New York City at David Findlay Gallery, Elizabeth Weiner Gallery, Syracuse University's Lubin House, the Jack Gallery, the Segal Gallery and the First Women's Bank; and elsewhere at the Jill Youngblood Gallery, LA, the Silvermine Center for the Arts, New Canaan, CT, and in Tokyo, at Gallery Tanishima and Gallery Sagan. She has participated in group shows at The Guggenheim Collection, NY (Recent Acquisitions show, 1986), The Atria Gallery, Hartford, CT, Neill Gallery, NY, The Institute of Contemporary Art, London, The Michael Stone Gallery, McLean, VA, and Gallery 99, Bay Harbor Islands, FL. Eisner is represented in private, public and corporate collections and has been published in The New York Times, New York Magazine, Who's Who in American Art, Vogue and New York Newsday. Eisner and her husband split their time between New York City and Weston, CT.