

For Immediate Release

Carol Salmanson / Stephen Truax

April 20--May 20, 2012

reception: Friday, April 20, 6:00--9:00 p.m.

Storefront Bushwick is pleased to present the work of Carol Salmanson and Stephen Truax in two solo exhibitions at the gallery from April 20—May 20th.

Carol Salmanson



Carol Salmanson works with light and reflective materials. Trained as a painter, the artist began using light and reflective materials eight years ago to take the spatial and color concerns of her painting into a different realm. Salmanson's wall pieces harness light's unique ability to touch both mind and feelings. Her work creates a sensation of depth, one that opens into mysterious worlds. The artist writes of her fascination with the material, "Light beams into you and envelops you. These very special qualities let me build emotional spaces that resonate with memory and experience. By amplifying and radiating color

outward, into and around the viewer, I can build atmospheres, using color, line, and form in a way that goes beyond painting's two-dimensional limitations."

Salmanson's large installations originate with the architecture of the sites they will inhabit. They are structural, concerned with the way that form, light, and reflected light merge to create a space that is artificial but not fictional: a stage set, lit from without and within. In the small works, in contrast, the artist's hand is visible. There is both spontaneity and hand-drawn lines, even though they're made from industrial materials such as LEDs, electronics components, plastics, and wire. Like painting, the work is deeply personal. Painters have always talked about depicting light. Today's technology allows Salmanson to use light as medium as well as subject. In her work, she brings new media into the context of the history of painting.

About the Artist : Carol Salmanson is a Brooklyn-based artist working with light and reflective materials. She uses optics along with a variety of lighting technologies and reflective materials to create large installations and unique objects with light as both medium and subject. Salmanson says that her art "explores the energy embedded in subconscious perceptions and calculations, the things you see and know without realizing it."

Her most recent installation, *Park Lights*, was presented by Smart Spaces in the windows of 254 Park Avenue South in New York City. Solo exhibition venues include Mixed Greens Gallery, Dam Stuhltrager Gallery, Saint Peter's Church, and PS 122 Gallery in New York City, and Gallery Ju-ichi Gatsu in Tokyo. Salmanson has recently participated in the following group exhibitions: *Dumbo Arts Festival* (2010); *Resplendency, East/West Project*, Berlin (2010); *Incandescent*, 532 Gallery Thomas Jaeckel, New York City (2008); *Trellis: A Sculpture Survey*, Rupert Ravens Contemporary, Newark (2008); *Host*, Soap Factory, Minneapolis (2007); *Corpse of Time*, Galeria Janet Kurnatowski, Brooklyn (2007); and *The Raw and the Cooked*, University of Massachusetts, Amherst (2006). Her exhibition at Storefront Bushwick will be followed by a solo exhibition at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey in 2013 as well as a group exhibition curated by Karin Bravin at Lehman College in the Bronx in the fall of 2012.

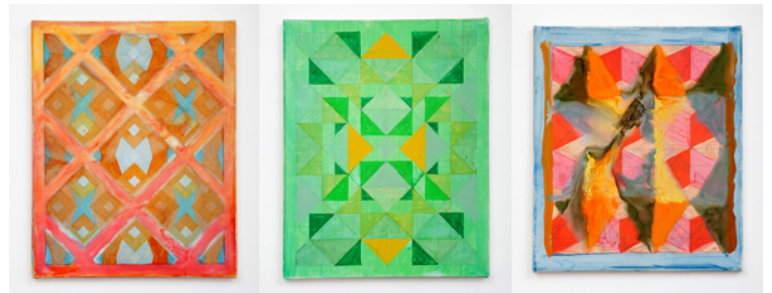
In the project space:

Stephen Truax

Stephen Truax's Xena series proposes a paradox--that contemporary painting can be simultaneously self-questioning and sincere. This recursive stance

occupies two contradictory positions: one, painting's acknowledgment of its own history and emotional meaning and two, the impossibility that painting can be unselfconsciously meaningful in a contemporary context.

The Xena series, 2010-11, are geometric abstract paintings in gouache and pencil on stretched and prepared paper, made by overlapping transparent layers of vibrant color. The compositions are bilaterally symmetrical and are drawn directly from ancient Roman mosaics, decorative wall painting, quilt patterns, and textile design. To make the work, the artist employs a unique process where areas of gouache are painted over hand-drafted patterns and then removed, leaving transparent layers of pigment stain in the prepared ground. The paintings have an impact disproportionate to their modest scale because of their striking beauty and enigmatic character.



The paintings teeter on the edge of craft by referencing quilting and decorative arts, yet also recall classical spiritual or religious imagery. Although made with materials traditionally used in design and drawing--the hand-drawn pencil grid remains visible in the final image--these works are clearly paintings intended to test the boundaries of the medium. By isolating common symbols and archetypes from historical, sacred sources and representing them in new, self-consciously-designed works, the artist connects motifs of ancient art and architecture with the practice of painting today. The Xena series proposes a link between the belief-infused visual language of the past and self-conscious contemporary thought.

About the Artist: Stephen Truax (born 1985 Glenview, IL) is an artist, writer, and independent curator, living and working in Bushwick, Brooklyn, NY. In 2011, he co-organized Portal, a series of five communicating exhibitions between Sydney, Beijing, and New York, with Sydney-based curator Janis Ferberg. His work, which includes painting, sculpture, photography, and digital prints, has been included in over twenty curated exhibitions in New York, Miami, Rome, and Kolkata. He earned his BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2007, lived and worked in Rome from 2005 to 2006, and traveled to India in 2007.