

Grimy Rhymes

Sheryl Oppenheim and Andrea Bergart

April 25-May 31, 2014

Opening Reception: Friday, April 25, 7-11pm

Each of Andrea Bergart and Sheryl Oppenheim's complex, aqueous paintings are antithetical. They stray various polarities of abstraction without fully committing to any one extreme. They are dense but airy, bright but dark, orderly yet messy. Both artists consistently reference textiles and pattern, even using fabrics and clothing as a substrate. The patterns, however, never truly materialize, and the materials never fully reveal themselves.

Oppenheim's marbled acrylic paintings combine influences as varied as medieval illuminated manuscripts and black light poster psychedelia. Bergart's large, translucent silk paintings drape from the ceiling, encapsulating the fluid markmaking of her works on canvas. They are dynamic, "grimy" abstractions, made both on and off traditional painting supports.

Andrea Bergart is a New York-based artist who has exhibited in New York, Oakland, Massachusetts, Texas and Ghana, Africa. Her paintings reference diverse visual traditions, including African textiles, urban fashion and geometric abstraction. Andrea received her BA in studio art and art history from Skidmore College and her MFA in painting from Boston University. In 2008-2009 she was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to Ghana where she researched patterns found in traditional beads and textiles. Andrea has received grants from the Puffin Foundation and the Queens Art Fund to complete both local and international mural projects. Inspired by early NYC subway graffiti, Andrea has also painted murals on cement mixing trucks which travel throughout the New York metro area. She was profiled as one of "8 Great Brooklyn Artists Under 30" by *L Magazine* in 2013. Andrea currently lives and paints in Ridgewood, Queens.

Sheryl Oppenheim (b. 1983 in Orlando, Florida) is a visual artist and bookmaker. She received her BA from Brandeis in 2005, and her MFA in painting from the Tyler School of Art in 2009. She was selected as one of Hyperallergic's "10 Artists to Watch" from the 2013 Bushwick Open Studios. This year, her work has been exhibited at Small Editions, the Bruce High Quality Foundation's Brucennial, and at Silent Barn. Oppenheim has made two limited-edition artist's books: *Black Hours*, published by Small Editions, and the self-published *Alba Amicorum* zine. Her work has been featured in *Artribune*, *Sguardo Contemporaneo*, and *Drawing on the Utopic*. Her work is in the public collections of the Rose Museum in Waltham, MA and the Kohler Art Library in Madison, WI. Oppenheim lives and works in Brooklyn and is a current Chashama Artist-in-Residence.

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