

Susan Eley

Fine Art

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PRESS CONTACT:
susie@susaneleyfineart.com
917.952.7641

In the Meeting of Rock and Sea

Monoprints by Rachel Burgess / Oil Paintings by Victor Honigsfeld

September 13 – October 26, 2017

OPENING RECEPTION: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 6-8 PM

Susan Eley Fine Art is pleased to announce the opening of ***In the Meeting of Rock and Sea***, a two-person exhibition featuring lush, painterly monoprints* by **RACHEL BURGESS**, and **VICTOR HONIGSFELD'S** expressive, small scale oil paintings of ships and urban landscapes. We will celebrate the opening of the exhibition with a reception for the artists on Wednesday, September 13, 6-8 pm.

RACHEL BURGESS

During studio visits with Rachel Burgess, she removes the large-scale sheets of paper from their protective sleeves and lays them out on her queen size bed for viewing. They are so large—measuring 37" x 52" for the diptychs and 37" x 78" for the triptychs—that this is the only surface, besides the floor, large enough to accommodate them.

A first look at the prints, saturated with washes of brilliant color depicting sky, water or expansive fields of green, induces a feeling of awe, tapping into the spiritual. We are looking at landscapes, but not proverbial ones with formulaic trees, boats or houses. Instead we see a horizon line under pink puffs of cumulus clouds, hovering over a lake as smooth as glass. Or layers of colors during a deepening sunset over a midnight blue lake; or a lighthouse, rendered with a quick slash of orange.

While each image is based in fact (specific sites are carefully researched and sketched by the artist in preparation for the making of a work), the artist's unexpected, highly poetic rendering gives each monoprint a dreamlike, fantastical quality.

This is the artist's first exhibition with Susan Eley Fine Art. Burgess was born in Boston, MA, and lives and works in New York City. She has a BA, Yale University (2004), and an MFA, School of Visual Arts (2007).

***WHAT IS A MONOTYPE?**

A monotype is a form of printmaking that yields just one image (as opposed to techniques that allow you to produce an image over and over again). To make a monotype, Burgess paints an image directly onto a plexi-glass plate and then uses a printing press to transfer the medium onto paper, creating a one-off impression. This process mirrors her interest in memory, as her original painting on the plate is lost but a unique work on paper is created.

VICTOR HONIGSFELD

Impressed with Victor Honigsfeld's small, jewel-like oil paintings, created *en plein air* in the gritty streets of Long Island City, Queens, SEFA offered the artist his first exhibition in 2006:

"Landscapes: Urban, Interior, Natural."

<http://susaneleyfineart.com/index.php/Detail/exhibitions/Landscapes>

While continuing his practice of creating urban imagery—inspired by the streets, industrial infrastructure and water towers of New York City—the artist turned his attention to the sea during his graduate years to pay homage to his own years at sea as a merchant marine. His paintings of solitary ships address his obsession with living a life untethered from his past and moving over the wilds and calmness of the ocean that is one's life. Like his urban scenes, Honigsfeld's maritime subjects are rendered with a similar cake-like quality, created with feathered brushstrokes and hot tones of orange, yellow and red paint.

Born in New York City, Victor Honigsfeld has an MFA in painting and drawing from Queens College (2015). He studied at the Art Students League, NYC, and the Ted Jacobs Ecole Albert DeFois in France, where he honed the skill of "restructured realism." The artist lives and works in New York City.