

Susan Eley

Fine Art

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 1, 2019

WINTER SELECTS: A GROUP EXHIBITION

January 10-February 21, 2019



Opening Reception: Thursday January 10, 6-8pm



Featuring a Special Performance by Jazz Band THE SHRINKS

Susan Eley Fine Art is pleased to present *Winter Selects: A Group Exhibition* featuring recent work by nine artists and opening on Thursday, January 10, 6-8 pm and remaining on view through February 21. Artists include Seongmin Ahn, Karin Bruckner, Susan Clinard, Peggy Dembicer, Nancy Hubbard, Lydia Janssen, Rachelle Krieger, Chase Langford and Nancy Moore.

We are delighted to announce that The Shrinks, a local jazz band named for their alternate careers in psychiatry, will perform during the reception.

The exhibition highlights a mix of artists from SEFA's roster, along with artists exhibiting with the Gallery for the first time. Among the newcomers are three Guild Members of the Silvermine Arts Center, a non-profit contemporary arts and education center, located in New Canaan CT.

The Gallery believes it's important to mount significant bi-annual group shows, alternating throughout the year with solo and two-person exhibitions. These group exhibitions offer artists regular opportunities to show new work, often fresh off the studio walls, and invite artists to see their work in the context of that of their peers. And for visitors to the Gallery, the rich array of styles and techniques in a group show offers a taste of the full roster of art represented by the Gallery.

A COLLABORATION WITH SILVERMINE ARTS CENTER, NEW CANAAN, CT

Last summer Silvermine Arts Center invited Susan Eley to guest curate its annual Guild Group Exhibit, which ran from November 18-December 20. Reviewing hundreds of submissions by 132 artists, the exhibition included 83 artworks by 44 painters, photographers, sculptors, textile artists and ceramicists.

As part of the partnership, Eley was subsequently invited to select three Guild artists from the Silvermine show to include in SEFA's *Winter Selects*. We are, thus, delighted to announce the inclusion of work by sculptor Susan Clinard, textile/bead artist Peggy Dembicer and painter Nancy Moore.

This cultural exchange of sorts continued when Silvermine offered Eley a gallery to highlight a select group of SEFA artists. And so concurrent with *Winter Selects*, SEFA has curated *Winter Selects Silvermine*, January 9-February 6, 2019, featuring paintings by Francie Hester, James Isherwood, Chase Langford and Kathy Osborn.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Korean painter **Seongmin Ahn** draws inspiration for her ink paintings of flowers and candy from *Minhwa*, Korean folk painting from the 18th and 19th centuries. Her ambition is to re-create *Minhwa* in a contemporary setting, marrying it with the aesthetic of Pop Art. The paintings on view feature a surprising marriage of colorful floral bouquets with stylized handguns, a nod to the nation's controversy over gun laws. Ahn first showed with SEFA in Korean Art Now (2015), a collaboration with curator Heekyoung Song whose gallery, Artflow, focuses on contemporary Korean artists.

Karin Bruckner's two large pieces are characteristic of her newest output of mixed media monoprints, which combine a painterly expression with use of many materials, including watercolor, ink, yarn, beads and collage. Bruckner was a practicing architect before leaving the industry to become a full time artist. Bruckner has exhibited with SEFA in the group exhibition *One of One* (2015) and at two art fairs, Art on Paper, NY (2017) and Aqua Art Miami (2012). Bruckner was born in Zurich Switzerland and studied architecture at the Technical University in Munich, Germany and ETH in Zurich, Switzerland. She lives in New York City.

Sculptor **Susan Clinard** works in wood, clay and wire in a range of sizes from small, wall-mounted figures to large scale, life-size installations. Whether diminutive or large, each figure is lovingly formed with a profound sense of humanity and emotional energy. *Winter Selects* will include *Four Women*, and a suite of small figures. Clinard received a degree in Sculpture and Cultural Anthropology from the University of Michigan. She currently lives in Connecticut, and for the past six years has been Artist in Residence at the Eli Whitney Museum, Hamden, CT.

Peggy Dembicer is a mixed media artist who uses traditional techniques of weaving, gluing, embroidering and stitching to create contemporary designs. Dembicer appropriates historical art, Pop and other imagery in her textile, fiber and beadwork. For **Winter Selects** we are highlighting her mastery in complex beadwork, exhibiting a famed portrait of Michel Basquiat, **Le Rêve Reversed**, inspired by Picasso's painting *Le Rêve*, (1932) and a weather pattern of Hurricane Irma, captured by NASA with the statement "Fake? Science." Dembicer lives in Avon, CT.

Nancy Hubbard, exhibiting for the first time with SEFA, is represented by two paintings in characteristic monochromatic black and white and yellow. Using charcoal, graphite, clay, pigment and wax on wood panel, Hubbard contrasts flat, smooth surfaces of color, that appear lacquered, with expressive, linear markings. She achieves these effects with her innovative use of traditional gessoes and gilding materials. Hubbard holds a BA in Art History from Rutgers University and a BFA from the State University of New York. She lives in Brooklyn, NY.

American painter **Lydia Janssen** lived in Singapore for seven years before recently moving to Ubud, Bali. Her surroundings have always affected her output. Her newest body of paintings, in oil, pastel and charcoal, celebrate the figure, in all its fragmented parts. The series is inspired by the feeling that the many spirits in Bali are always active and "watching" her in a sort of Spotlight Effect. Janssen first showed with SEFA in **A Course Change** (2014), which highlighted a similar sense of fragmentation, but whose painting subjects were animals, not human figures. Janssen, born in Lansing, MI, received a BA from Sarah Lawrence College. After graduation, she moved to New York City to pursue her dance career. Injuries ended her career at a young age, and she returned to painting full time, attending the Art Students League of New York studying under Larry Poons and Ronnie Landfield.

In the summer of 2018 **Rachelle Krieger** worked with master printer Marina Ancona of 10 Grand Press to create a series of monotypes titled "Caim," referring to the towers of rocks one builds in caves, hikes and on journeys to leave a path back home. The three monotypes on view boast washes of warm yellows, pink, white and reds, intersected with curved gestural markings. Krieger has participated in two solo and two two-person exhibitions and many group shows and art fairs with SEFA. Krieger received a BFA from the Pratt Institute, and studied at the New York Studio School and the Art Students League, NYC. She was born and raised in Queens, NY, and lives in Port Washington, NY.

Chase Langford will be represented by two, large horizontal oil paintings from his ongoing and signature Morphic series: *Sunset Beach 2* (2018) and *Emerald Bay 4* (2014). Starting out his career as a cartographer, Langford evolved into a full time painter as he realized that his maps were becoming increasingly abstracted. Each painting begins with the sense of a place. But as memory of visited sites constantly shifts, so does Langford's direction as he changes course to meet each new color or compositional challenge. The artist is from Pontiac, Michigan. He received a BA in Geography, UC Santa Barbara, and currently lives in Beverly Hills, CA.

Nancy Moore's three paintings chosen for *Winter Selects*— *I Rise*, *Portrait of an Artist*, and *I Am So Much More*, are part of her ongoing series of Unconventional Women. This series explores the concepts of unconventional beauty and transformation as it plays with shape-shifting, creation myth, and gender-bending. These women are flawed yet strong, perfect in their imperfections. Moore uses watercolor, wax crayon, gouache, graphite, and metallic paint to play fast and loose with proportion, color, and composition. Her study of folklore, love of fashion, and reverence for nature combine to create a narrative for each woman that can engage the viewer on a deeper level. Moore is a self-taught artist who spent 38 years as a book editor before turning to painting full time. She lives in Ridgefield, CT.