

Susan Eley  
— Hudson —  
Fine Art

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 1, 2022

***Flora Inhabited***

**Angela A'Court**

**Ellen Hermanos**



Susan Eley Fine Art, Hudson  
433 Warren Street, Hudson, NY 12534



March 10 - April 24, 2022  
Opening Reception: Saturday, March 12, 6-8 PM

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Susan Eley Fine Art, Hudson presents *Flora Inhabited*, a two-person exhibition featuring Angela A'Court and Ellen Hermanos. The artists initially approach their work through a study of botanical forms. They transform petals, leaves and stems to generate intimate and atmospheric visual scenes. A'Court creates works on paper, primarily pastels and monotypes; she depicts interior spaces and the personal objects that live within—from verdant bouquets to anthropomorphized chairs. Hermanos composes multi-media paintings by intuitively layering pigment and materials; she produces sublime colorfields, which often represent domestic symbols such as flowers and windows.

*Flora Inhabited* will be on view at SEFA Hudson from March 10 through April 17, 2022. For inquiries or to schedule an appointment, please contact [liz@susaneleyfineart.com](mailto:liz@susaneleyfineart.com). Both artists will be present for an opening reception on Saturday, March 12th, 6-8PM. The reception coincides with [2econd Saturday Hudson Gallery Crawl](#), a local initiative where cultural venues and select businesses on Warren Street remain open until 8PM to welcome visitors.



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In *Flora Inhabited*, the artworks—and the exhibition itself—evoke the home space, the domestic realm. The Gallery walls are adorned with A’Court’s pastel still-lives, hung in a dynamic salon style, and Hermanos’ boldly hued paintings, as accents pieces within SEFA’s interior architecture. Indeed, both artists’ works plunge viewers into an atmosphere that is simultaneously familiar and otherworldly—abstracted by their skillful techniques in manipulating color and texture.

Hermanos’ “Golden Windows” series functions in harmony with A’Court’s practice to produce a true environment—which is not just a visual pleasure, but also an evocative internal experience. Hermanos’ bright, metallic “windows” are suspended in the Gallery’s own windows. Their scintillating palette acts as a lively surface for the play of light and shadow as the sun changes throughout the day on Warren Street. A’Court’s pastel *Baby Blue Peony* has been transformed into wallpaper: an optically satisfying grid whose pattern references classic Victorian design motifs. Activating the space as a veritable “interior,” this custom wallpaper was produced for *Flora Inhabited*. Within the exhibition’s larger dialogue, the wallpaper functions as yet another surface to craft a “home.” Framed works are mounted atop the floral-printed paper, revealing the multifaceted opportunities for decoration and appreciation that resonate within the artists’ subject matter and practices.



To effectively portray their personal interpretations of botanicals and interiors—the artists approach abstraction in two distinct manners. **Angela A’Court** zooms in on selected objects. She flattens the form of a plant’s leaves into textured patches of pigment; or provides a sketchy, almost skeletal, rendering of cups, jugs and chairs. A’Court collects the items that become her subjects via multiple sources, from flea markets to friends’ houses. To her, they take on human characteristics and memories. For example, each chair in her monotype series, on view at SEFA Hudson, has a personality; its depiction can conjure a person who once occupied it. A’Court focuses on an object’s individual energy—enhancing some with her application of pastels so that each area of color possesses multiple depths; and obscuring others with more minimal shapes and outlines, instinctively capturing only the essential elements on these starker visual planes.

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**Ellen Hermanos** also abstracts floral specimens and concepts involving the interior. Preferring a different method to A'Court's "zooming in"—Hermanos instead explodes her earthly reference points into exuberant colorfield paintings. She is especially inspired by the form of the tulip, which is the basis for the series on view at SEFA Hudson. She uses the nuances of its buds and petals to produce multilayered abstract paintings. Her works frequently echo the shape and function of a window: providing a glimpse of another universe, here conjured by golden and sapphire tones. Hermanos accumulates various media on her canvases and mixes acrylic, oil and pastel. Then, she physically erases elements by scratching with a palette knife—repeatedly adding to and subtracting from her canvases to achieve her desired aesthetic effect.



A'Court and Hermanos do not shy away from terms like "domestic" or "decorative," which have frequently been employed as diminutive descriptors in art history's contemporary vernacular. Instead, the artists embrace these concepts, which are constants in our daily realities and our surrounding environments—structuring how we live, perceive and interact; how we work, relax and communicate. Thus, A'Court and Hermanos elevate the meaning of such terms, and such artistic subjects and styles. They realize the emotional potency and greater psychological importance of what envelops us and what "home" can signify—from the objects to the colors; from the *Kitchen Chair* to the *BlueGray Tulips*. Rooted in the natural world, the artists activate flora to inhabit our space; their flowers simultaneously live within this space and give life to it.



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## Angela A'Court

Angela A'Court was born in London in 1961. She attended the West Surrey College of Art and Design, UK; Parsons School of Art and Design, New York; and Goldsmiths' College, London, where she earned her BA in Fine Art Textiles. Previously, A'Court worked as an interior designer for an architectural practice. She now paints full time and lives between New York, NY and London. Her narrative and figurative paintings and works on paper employ a direct and vibrant visual vocabulary to illustrate the relationship of experience to expression, as well as the beauty and the quirkiness of everyday moments. With an eye toward aesthetic balance, the artist places shapes on the paper and works with the spaces in between. Her sensitivity to texture is ultimately conveyed by her application of color, especially notable in her pastels. A'Court is represented by Susan Eley Fine Art, and the exhibition *Flora Inhabited* marks her second presentation at SEFA's Hudson location.

[angelaacourt.com](http://angelaacourt.com)



## Ellen Hermanos

Ellen Hermanos was born and raised in New York City and currently lives and works in Boston, MA. She received a BA in Art History from William Smith College and a certificate in graphic design from the Massachusetts College of Art in 1992. Hermanos' interest in the emotional world threads not only through her art, but also through her additional career as a psychotherapist. The artist uses brushes, palette knives and sponge rollers to build up then take away layers of color. The strokes create unexpected expressions and reveal or disguise hidden colors beneath the surface. Her abstract compositions often feature opaque sections that are contrasted with areas of softness and transparency. Hermanos is represented by Susan Eley Fine Art, and the exhibition *Flora Inhabited* marks her first presentation at SEFA's Hudson location.

[ellenhermanos.com](http://ellenhermanos.com)