

BRIDGETTE MAYER GALLERY



EXHIBIT EXPLORES ART, CYCLIC MEMORY

Written by [Bobbi Booker](#) | Sunday, 06 November 2011 18:32



Odili Donald Odita's "Electric City 2010" can be seen at the "Karmic Abstraction" exhibit. - Photo/courtesy Bridgette Mayer Gallery

Closed for renovation for much of 2011, Bridgette Mayer Gallery on Washington Square in Center City reopens this week with the group exhibit of contemporary painting, "Karmic Abstraction." The inaugural show's title in the expanded and transformed space reflects Mayer's "interest in the idea of the karmic cycle of an artist's history of painting and ideas." The selected works, by 16 nationally and internationally-recognized artists reveals, "How, at a given moment in time, standing in front of a work of art, the viewer is faced with the multiple layers and concepts that create a painting as well as a lifetime of ideas, actions and history that make up the career and art history of a contemporary artist."

Owner and director Bridgette Mayer founded the gallery in May of 2001 with 10 years experience in gallery and arts management in New York, San Francisco, Taiwan and Philadelphia. The gallery's mission is to support emerging artists and to give their work and careers a critical voice within the art community. The gallery specializes in working with first-time art buyers as well as seasoned collectors interested in enhancing their art collection through the acquisition of market-proven artists. Gallery artists have won prestigious grants and residencies including: Pew Fellowship in the Arts, Leeway Foundation Window of Opportunity Awards, 2007 Miami University Young Painters Competition, the Pennsylvania Council for the Arts Grant, Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture, Fulbright Fellowship, Vermont Studio Center Summer Scholarships, Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarships and the Wayne Art Center Newman Award.

The artists in the "Karmic Abstraction" exhibit reflect notions of how the history of a painting might be apparent on its surface in a number of ways. Some works speak to personal or cultural memory, while others address the traditions of painting or the medium's capacity to generate a record of its own creation. Odili Donald Odita, a Philadelphia painter, uses color to "reflect the collection of visions from [...] travels globally and locally." Philadelphian Tim McFarlane writes that "relationships between time, memory, and movement form the primary foundation" for his paintings, which have an atmospheric quality as if seen through a filter of recollection. Atlanta-based artist Radcliffe Bailey situates his work in dialog with the past by incorporating photographs into his compositions. For each of these artists, paintings are a repository for personal and cultural experience and means of reflecting on questions of identity.

The Bridgette Mayer Gallery is located in the heart of Washington Square at 709 Walnut Street, 1st Floor. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and by appointment. For more information, visit www.bridgettemayergallery.com.

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