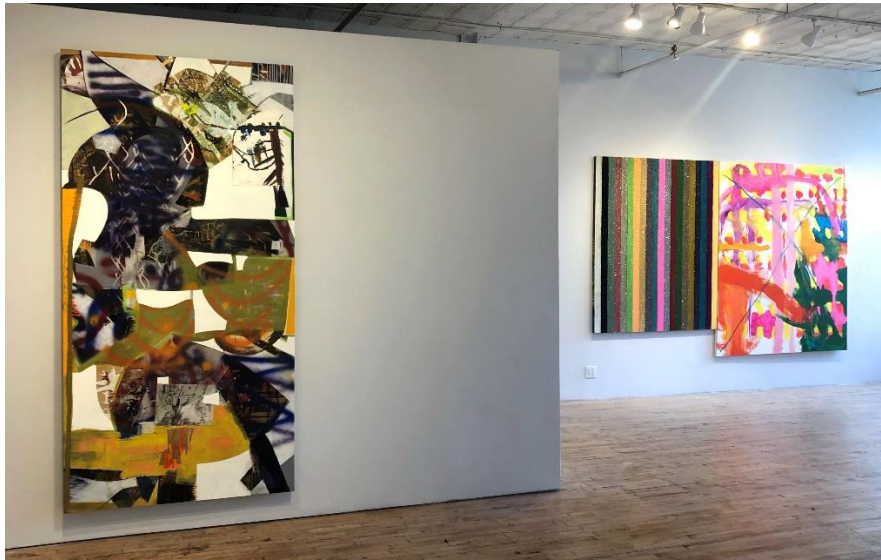


Painting Paintings : A Leap of Fate Astrid Dick / Erika Ranee

Essay by Jennifer Samet

Opening Reception: October 28, 2022 6-9pm

Poetry Reading: November 6, 3pm John Yau, Billie Chernicoff and Jared Daniel Fagan



M.David & Co. is pleased to announce *Painting Paintings : A Leap of Fate*, an exhibition of paintings by New York-based artist Erika Ranee and from Paris artist Astrid Dick.

The show's title references the fate that brought these two painters together. Ranee, a much-admired painter with an extensive exhibition history (and whose studio was directly above the Gallery when it was called *Life On Mars!*), first came across Dick's work (a newcomer to the New York painting world) in the Gallery's *Inhabited Touch* group exhibition in March 2022. Ranee contacted Dick directly about her admiration for her work and Dick expressed hers for Ranee. The concept for the two-person exhibition was born out of this fateful moment.

I first met Erika Ranee and her paintings when she had a studio above my gallery *Life On Mars*. Semi-regularly, Erika's process of pouring would result in paint flooding to our gallery, one time dangerously close to a Brenda Goodman (God forbid). As time went by, I would see Erika's work deepen in complexity and clarity to develop a mesmerizing visual language with her incredible range of materials, patterning and use of color. In a recent interview with Cody Ryman in *Bomb* magazine, Erika states "I know intuitive is a dirty word in many art world circles, but I wholeheartedly embrace it as a description of my approach to painting. I think that links me closest to spiritual." Her work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Hyperallergic*, and *Artforum*, among others, and will be the subject of a one-person exhibition at Klaus

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Open: Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays 1pm - 6pm

Gallery in New York in 2023. It is incredible that after all these years I get to show her great work, and without fear of flooding the gallery!

Astrid Dick first showed her work in my gallery in a group exhibition in February 2020, and I came across her work again in the spring of 2021. I went to her website and learned about her previous life as an economics PhD from MIT who left that world thirteen years ago to devote her life to painting. In a series of subsequent conversations, I learned of her commitment to the use of multiple tropes, including stripes, monochromes, and open gesture. As I became more acquainted with her intelligence and passion for painting, I understood how these tropes are interconnected, inform each other, and importantly, embody her fight for freedom. I find her range astounding. In the tradition of this gallery to introduce and reintroduce so many great painters to a wider audience (such as Brenda Goodman, Arnold Mesches, Todd Bienvenue, and Daniel John Gadd), it is a pleasure to welcome Astrid, an invitation long overdue.

The two painters share great affinities in their work. Using a wide range of vibrant colors, traditional paint (Dick oils, Ranees acrylic) and other materials (glitter and foam supports in Dick's case, spray paint and collage in Ranees's), complex patterns and layering, both artists work in scale from the most intimate to the grand, the latter coming to them naturally from their shared histories as athletes in their youth and their innate need to be transformed physically by the act of painting. Above all they share lives dedicated to their passion to an unwavering commitment to the practice of painting.

To grace this gallery's walls with the work of these killer Queens of the Night (both often painting till dawn) with a wicked sense of humor, powerhouse painters that are all color, heart, drawing, brains and courage! The result, an exhibition of thrilling painting that fate has given the Gallery the chance to present and share.

Michael David
10/9/22

Poetry Reading: November 6, 3pm

John Yau
Genghis Chan on Drums

Billie Chernicoff
Minor Secrets

Jared Daniel Fagen
The Animal of Existence

Books by the readers & from the Black Square catalog will be available.