

CYNTHIA-REEVES

PRESS RELEASE

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KAREN SILVE

CONVERSATIONS

The Barn at 28 Main Street, Walpole, NH

April 21 - May 26, 2018

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Karen Silve, *Coalescence*, 2018, acrylic on canvas, 60 x 84 inches

CYNTHIA-REEVES is pleased to present new paintings by West Coast artist, Karen Silve. *Conversations* opens at the Walpole gallery on April 21 and runs through May 26.

Silve's exuberant painting captures the rich visual impression of nature in her fully alive canvases. Her intuitive work relies on layers of lush colors and aggressive brushwork. Based on synaesthetic impressions of the natural world, her paintings impart an unabashed appreciation of nature's profusion of shape and color. Her interest in Abstract Expressionist and Fauvist paintings are in full evidence here, supported by her rhythmic, calligraphic brushstrokes. Purposefully abstract, these compositions are a result of piecing together ad hoc sections of developed works, to arrive ultimately at a new and unexpected place.

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Karen Silve, *Coalescence II*, 2018, acrylic on canvas
68 x 58 inches

In the tradition of Abstract Expressionism, Silve depends on a certain degree of spontaneity and the impact of the immediate gesture to inform her paintings. To paraphrase the great New York School critic Harold Rosenberg, "What goes into the canvas is not a picture but an event." In Silve's case, landscapes, music, or other memories elicit a full mind-body recollection. Significantly, many of her works are human-scaled, further reinforcing that sense of immediacy and corporeal impact.

Having mastered the abstract expressionist gesture, Silve has made it her own and re-animated its atmosphere. Her canvases bristle with brushstrokes that act equally as visual building blocks and as components of notation. Taking cues equally from Paul Cézanne and from Joan Mitchell, Silve embraces a history of modernist mark-making in order to respond adequately to a world of color and volume and temperature. Without painting landscapes or still life, she is still a painter of space and the things it contains. She takes inspiration from the places she inhabits and the objects and events she witnesses to 'charge' her art. Her paintings do not describe or even suggest her surroundings so much as taste of them. We come away from Silve's canvases less with an idea of what the Pacific Northwest or the south of France looks like than with a feel of, and for, northern Oregon and the Mediterranean interior, perhaps in the same painting. - Peter Frank

Silve has exhibited her work extensively in solo exhibitions including at the Portland Performing Arts Center, the Forsyth Center Gallery at Texas A&M University, the Visual Art Center of Northwest Florida, the Tuscaloosa Performing Arts Center and the West Linn Public Library in Oregon. Group exhibitions include those at the Jemison-Carnegie Heritage Museum, Talledega AL, and the Art in Embassies Program, Doha, Qatar. She lives and works in Portland, Oregon and has a second studio in the south of France.

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CYNTHIA-REEVES represents an international roster of established artists who share a process-apparent sensibility in their work. We are committed to artwork that demonstrates an authentic voice, an innovative use of materials, and an appreciation of the mark in diverse media: site-based installation, video, sculpture, painting and works on paper.

We initiate public art projects in the US and abroad placing large-scale works in the public domain for both permanent and temporary installations, in such locations as New York City, London, Boston, San Diego, Miami, Salt Lake City, Philadelphia, Las Vegas and Dallas.

CYNTHIA-REEVES has galleries on the campus of MASS MoCA in the Berkshires, and in Walpole, New Hampshire, with additional staff offices in New York and Boston. For more information on these artists, please visit the online gallery at CYNTHIA-REEVES.com or call 212 714 0044.