

Sandra Mendelsohn Rubin: *views from home*

6 January - 3 February, 2007

Opening reception for the artist:
Saturday, 6 January, 4:00-8:00 p.m



Sandra Mendelsohn Rubin, *Valley View: Winter Frost*, 2005, oil on polyester, 4 x 7 1/8 in. (10.2 x 18.1 cm)



Sandra Mendelsohn Rubin, *Valley View: Early Summer*, 2005, oil on polyester, 4 x 7 1/8 in. (10.2 x 18.1 cm)

“More and more my work is about the joyful pleasure of painting”

—Sandra Mendelsohn Rubin

L.A. Louver is pleased to announce an exhibition of new paintings by Sandra Mendelsohn Rubin. Entitled *views from home*, this is the first exhibition of landscape paintings that Sandra Rubin has made since her move from Los Angeles to Northern California seventeen years ago. Well-known for her paintings of L.A.’s urban landscape, which were the subject of her critically acclaimed exhibition at Los Angeles County Museum of Art in 1985, Rubin’s subsequent departure to a rural environment led her to shift her focus to interior still-life subjects. As an acute observer of color, light and atmosphere, the rural landscape that first confronted Rubin almost two decades ago was one that felt overwhelming, but which she has now come to fully embrace, resulting in this new series of paintings.

The earliest works in the exhibition are nine paintings, collectively titled *Valley View*, each of which focuses on the landscape at a particular time of year. These paintings are small in scale (4 x 7 1/8 inches), yet depict expansive vistas that belie the formal size of the canvases. Rather, each has the presence of a large painting that has been distilled into a smaller format. Painting from life, the scale provides Rubin with the ability to work quickly, and to capture the nuances of the seasonal shifts and changing patterns of light at different times of the day throughout of the year. This intimate scale also provides a means for the viewer to read deep space, and to perceive what is depicted as “far away.” Rubin has chosen to paint exactly the same vista throughout the series, as her primary interest is not to paint the scene per se, but to evoke how forces of nature affect color, light and shadow in landscape. Of note, the paintings lack a depiction of the sky, which is nevertheless implied by the atmosphere conveyed in the work. Implied also is the great expanse of the land. This expanse is addressed in a different way through the dramatically horizontal compositions of paintings such as *Dusk*, 2006 (6 x 34 inches) and *Ridge in Winter*, 2006 (9 x 117 inches). In these paintings the sky becomes an important element of the composition, while the viewer is positioned at a closer viewpoint and enjoys a wider panorama.

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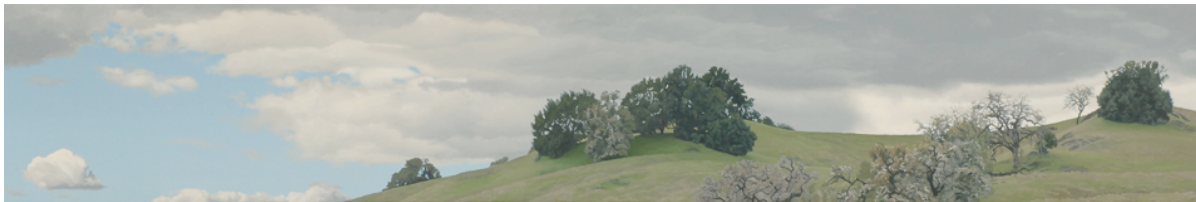
While painting light and atmosphere is an abiding interest, Rubin says “I am very driven by the desire to make the painting undeniably solid and tangible. I use the paint undiluted with no medium or glazes added. I sometimes feel I am sculpting with color. I am also very concerned that the paintings function equally on an abstract level. I think that is what holds the eye in the picture... not what is recognizable.”

The landscapes that comprise *views from home* embody Rubin’s love of her environment, as well as the great pleasure that she derives in painting itself.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Sandra Mendelsohn Rubin studied at UCLA in the late 1970s, with such artists as William Brice, James Valerio and the late James Doolin, with whom she became a close friend. From this early stage, Rubin developed a distinctive landscape style that garnered both public and critical acclaim. In 1980, she received the Young Talent Purchase Award from the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and a year later was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. With this support, Rubin began to produce still-lifes and urban landscape scenes. The artist's first solo show was held at L.A. Louver in 1982. This was followed by solo exhibitions at LACMA and Fischer Fine Art, London in 1985; Claude Bernard Gallery, New York in 1987; and L.A. Louver in 1992 and 2003.



Sandra Mendelsohn Rubin, *Backeye Seed Pods*, 2004, oil on polyester
6 x 5 in. (15.2 x 12.7 cm)



Sandra Mendelsohn Rubin, *Ridge in Winter* (center panel), 2005-6, oil on polyester (triptych), Overall triptych: 9 x 117 in. (22.9 x 297.2 cm), Center panel: 9 x 54 in. (22.9 x 137.2 cm)

Concurrent to Sandra Mendelsohn Rubin: *views from home*, L.A. Louver will present new works on paper by Charles Garabedian in the second floor gallery, and sculpture by Richard Deacon in the courtyard and skyroom.

L.A. Louver is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Validated parking is available.

For further information and visuals, please contact Elizabeth East, L.A. Louver, 45 North Venice Boulevard, Venice, CA 90291 telephone 310-822-4955; fax 310-821-7529; e-mail elizabeth@lalouver.com; www.lalouver.com

