

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sandra Mendelsohn Rubin
Shapes & Shadows: Still-Life Paintings, 1994-2003
17 October - 15 November, 2003
Reception for the artist: Friday, October 17, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

LA Louver is pleased to present a rare exhibition of paintings by Sandra Mendelsohn Rubin, created over the past decade, and marking her first solo exhibition since 1992.

THE EXHIBITION

Shapes and Shadows: Still-Life Paintings 1994-2003, represents the work Rubin has made since her move from Santa Monica to Northern California in 1989. With the combined change of environment and the rigors of working out-of-doors, Rubin brought her painting inside. In the controlled environment of her studio, Rubin discovered anew everyday objects for her subject matter. By exploring "the physical immediacy of things" in these closely observed still-lives, Rubin was able to reconnect with her interest in the drama of light, form and shadow. Her choice of subject ranges from the intuitive, to the personal, to the formal, made up of the matter of life.

In these works, Rubin has continued her practice of painting from direct observation, in front of the still life set-up. First she creates a drawing, which is then interpreted in oils, as a finely detailed painting. On occasion, a larger canvas will be brought forth from these small-scale works. This exhibition includes three such painting companions: Sledge Hammer with Light Bulbs; Radio Flyer & Rocks, and Gourds & Peppers.

Also moved by a desire to use pure color in her work (unmixed to show the spectrum of light), Rubin has created a series of twelve small paintings (each measures only 6 1/8 x 10 inches). Depicting disparate objects, collected far and wide, each canvas focuses on a particular color from the artist's color wheel. Larger canvases that address the extreme ends of the spectrum -- black and white, accompany the small works.

LA Louver is pleased to announce the publication of a boxed portfolio of limited edition giclée prints, which are based upon the twelve color wheel paintings.

THE ARTIST

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, which 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 LA 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 LA Louver in 1992. While Rubin has participated in group show since this time, Shapes & Shadows: Still-Life Paintings 1994-2003 is the artist's first solo exhibition in eleven years and only the sixth in her lifetime.

A 70-page, full color catalogue, with foreword by Kimberly Davis and essay by Noriko Gamblin accompanies the exhibition.

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

For further information and visuals please contact Elizabeth East,
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