URBAN VIRTUE

Paintings by Cora Cohen and Susanne Doremus
Susanne Doremus

Bridge, 2011
oil, oil stick on canvas
48 x 48 in. (121.92 x 121.92 cm.)
Susanne Doremus
Untitled, 2014
oil and acrylic on canvas
60 x 60 in. (152.4 x 152.4 cm.)
Susanne Doremus
*Vivid Dreams*, 2013
oil, acrylic, graphite and collage on canvas
78 x 84 in. (198.12 x 213.36 cm.)
Cora Cohen
Nomad (revised), 2013
acrylic, Flashe, oil, spray enamel, tape, wood veneer on linen
34 x 38 in. (86.36 x 96.52 cm.)
Cora Cohen

*Blue Horizontal*, 2008

graphite, oil on linen

32 x 48 in. (81.28 x 121.92 cm)
Cora Cohen
*Writing Absence*, 2010
oil on linen
18 x 16 in. (45.72 x 40.64 cm)
The paintings of two urban-based painters, Cora Cohen and Susanne Doremus, are featured in the Sarah Moody Gallery of Art. The number of pieces and their respective scale fit the space like a glove. Cohen's work has a little more room while the Doremus paintings exist more exactly into their locations. Cora Cohen, a New York artist, has spent her life engaged in a painting conversation working in a place of painters while seeking comfort, affirmation among her peers and friends, some of whom may be paintings themselves. Moving beyond painting’s history Cohen writes, “My work derives sustenance from the placement of culture within nature, as with the architecture at Insel Hombroich, as with the constantly changing active, unplanned energy moving through cities. During the past several years I have begun paintings with that attitude” [2013]. Her own painting invites an immersion into a space she has occupied, one that has kept her movement and her touch intact, done and undone. Her work conjures a time caught that waits for you to release it once again with your gaze and presence. She uses the materials of painting to settle and hold you still as you dare to look with a stolen glance until you return with your longest stare. You can expand your own sensations with her painted choreography. Susanne Doremus is a painter from Chicago and has contributed her experiences with painting and life to teaching others. This is not the first time these artists have exhibited together. Their paintings echo and share some footsteps with abstract painting and there is something about their urban foundations that might creep into their process and remain within their work. Doremus creates vulnerable paintings. She mixes strengths and weaknesses, laid bare for consideration. There is an animated feeling...
Cora Cohen (checklist)

**Complicity and Resistance**, 2004
acrylic, charcoal, copper, oil pastel, pigment on muslin
71 x 69 in. (180.3 x 173.3 cm.)

**Nomad (revised)**, 2013
acrylic, Flashe, oil, spray enamel, tape, wood veneer on linen
34 x 38 in. (86.36 x 96.52 cm.)

**Drawing 5 Yellow**, 2013
acrylic, Flashe on linen
37 x 53 in. (94 x 134.6 cm)

**What Is This About?**, 2008
oil on linen
29 x 44 in. (63.5 x 73.66 cm)

**Blue Horizontal**, 2008
graphite, oil on linen
32 x 48 in. (81.28 x 121.92 cm)

**If I Weren’t**, 2012
oil on linen
67 x 69 in. (170.18 x 175.26 cm)

**Fall 2**, 2012
oil on linen
37” x 36 in. (93.98 x 91.44 cm)

**Writing Absence**, 2010
oil on linen
18 x 16 in. (45.72 x 40.64 cm)

All works on loan courtesy of the artist

---

that occurs as elements enter and elements leave, less absolute. She employs geometric, built structures that are partially obliterated by overlays of other speeding gestural strokes. Dart and flow appear as color, tracking the drag of her movements as the painting’s history accumulates. This movement combines with stoppage that she invents in the plane with the inclusion of figures dwarfed by the scale of their surroundings. We may recognize them since she probably took them from some common source, or familiar frame. A woman in repose, a man waiting - occupy the same space as a tumbling contour of a leg or head, breast or foot. Her paintings pronounce beauty with titles that affirm representation. Sky or City give some comfort, making it easy to come close to a work whose idea you may already know in its duality, fear and tranquility. One finds a painting within a painting as is the case with Plan. Doremus thinks of this as a door within a plane that puts you inside or outside. The sensation of isolation is recalled in tandem with beauty so as to attest to both pleasure and pain. Her paintings become complex and then again simple as they breathe.

wtd