

STEPHEN WIRTZ GALLERY

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KATHRYN VAN DYKE

New Paintings

Exhibition dates: April 20-May 28, 2005

Opening reception for the artist Thursday, May 5, 2005, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Stephen Wirtz Gallery announces an exhibition of new oil paintings on canvas by Kathryn Van Dyke.

Each painting in this new body of work features a unique variation on a structural yet elusively poetic thematic element that exists throughout the series: a delicate hand-drawn net or web-like pattern rendered in graphite directly on the canvas, often covering the surface overall. Resembling the segmented structure of an insect's wing, the *craquele* glaze of Chinese porcelain, or the effect of a pebble shattering a car windshield, this pattern structures the surface in an organized yet effortlessly organic way.

These intuitively rendered and loosely bound networks of chance connections provide the framework for deeper exploration by Van Dyke. She builds geometric forms that resemble faceted crystalline structures by juxtaposing expanses of alternating color within the web and highlights the intersections of the graphite lines with points of color. The surfaces scintillate as gemlike forms mysteriously emerge from the growing nets and small dots of color selectively punctuate the connections. The resulting effect is radiant, optical and transporting.

Van Dyke's use of this structure revisits an earlier strategy of creating variations on a geometric theme that she successfully employed in her last Wirtz Gallery exhibition. The canvases from *Thought Patterns* utilized a grid structure rendered in intersecting silver metallic paint passages that cause a shift in the surface of the canvases according to light and viewer's perspective.

Van Dyke states about her work: "For me, a poetic element in painting comes about when several different signs, symbols, or paint passages come together and create a new meaning."

KATHRYN VAN DYKE (b. 1957, Wisconsin) received her M.F.A. from Yale School of Art in 1993. Van Dyke was a recipient of the 2000 *SECA Art Award* from SFMOMA that included a solo exhibition at the museum. This is her fifth exhibition at Wirtz Gallery. Van Dyke lives and works in Marin County, CA.

Stephen Wirtz Gallery is located at 49 Geary St., 3rd Fl., San Francisco, CA 94108, (415) 433-6879. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday, 9:30-5:30, Saturday 10:30-5:30.

For additional information please contact Julie Casemore, Tel.: (415) 433-6879, julie@wirtzgallery.com

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