

Artists Statement: New Work

Sarah Schuster's new work uses the sensual and luscious pleasure of color and paint to celebrate a sense of possibility and depict a world where gravity is tenuous, getting your bearing is difficult and it is a struggle to determine what is right-side up from upside down. On one hand the paintings look purely formal, abstract and decorative, on the other hand, they suggest images of knots, snarls, roller coasters and tornados. The vortexes, tangles, twists and turns in Schuster's work represent a chaotic and abandoned state of mind. The forms and images run throughout her paintings...sometimes in the rhythmic strokes of her paintbrush and sometimes in images of explosions, volcanos, tsunamis, landslides, fires, migration patterns. They all share similar architectural structures that create playful, or overstimulating patterns. The paintings suggest a world without hierarchy where the abstract and the real, the material and the immaterial, and the actual and the imagination coexist and remain free to come and go. Schuster thinks of these abstract patterns as worlds that the viewer can enter or spaces where her imaginary figures and narratives can take place in. By removing the figure and explicit subject matter nothing constricts the unbridled use of material and process that painting lends itself to. Her recent figure paintings grow out of the atmosphere and spirit of this work.