

March 20, 2014

Leslie Wayne: Absorbed and wiped out

2:41 pm by Sharon Butler



In the last few years, much has been made of hybrid paintings that re-purpose canvas and stretcher bars to create sculptural objects. In her solo at Jack Shainman, Leslie Wayne takes a brilliant tangent, presenting small-scale objects made from oil-paint skins that she folds to look like cloths.



In the exhibition's catalogue, critic David Pagel writes elegantly that "these three-dimensional paintings are category-straddling mongrels in love with a kind of fugitive formalism and a sort of renegade realism, both of which invite visitors to reconsider established interpretations of these ordinarily opposed approaches to, and understandings of, art's purposes and priorities."

Wayne takes as her subject the accidental beauty found in the stains created on painting rags from wiping out accidents and cleaning up mistakes. Rather than simply stretching a few old rags (or floor tarps, as [many painters](#) have done), however, Wayne painstakingly creates objects that reference the paint-soaked cloths. The objects are teeming with rich associations, from drapery painting lessons in foundation art classes, to ribbon candy, cake icing, circus and cabana tents, Cousin Itt (of the Addams Family), Miss Havisham's drapes, Balzac's cloak (per Rodin)...and more. What carries the pieces beyond the wonder of Wayne's process is that they are full of contradictions: tough and delicate, pragmatic and whimsical.

In this video, Wayne explains her unusual process, which involves applying paint in thin layers and then carefully removing it from the surface.



And here, Wayne talks about the new pieces' relationship to previous work and her ongoing interests in landscape, geology, and layered materiality.



"Leslie Wayne: Rags," Jack Shainman, Chelsea, New York, NY. Through March 22, 2014.

Related posts:

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2 thoughts on "Leslie Wayne: Absorbed and wiped out"

Anonymous
March 23, 2014 at 9:31 am

reminds me of Sam Gilliam

[Reply](#)

Anonymous
March 24, 2014 at 4:36 am

Leslie Wayne is transforming art as we have become accustomed to. She is a delightful new star in the art firmament!

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Contributed by Sharon Butler / Recently I was pleased to learn that Winston Wächter Fine Art in Chelsea and Seattle will be representing Catherine Howe, a talented painter I met during ...

Two Coats Selected Gallery Guide / June 2018

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Seriously, what are Carroll Dunham's paintings about?

December 5, 2012 / A couple years ago in the LA Times, art critic David Pagel wrote that Carroll Dunham's paintings of women were "vulgar beyond belief...offensive, demeaning and disgusting ...

New Image Painters challenge Zombie Formalists

Galleries are trying to spread the news: our Zombie Formalism is out; pop-inflected, often casualist, representational imagery is in. This summer Jesse Greenberg and MacGregor Harp of Brooklyn's 247365 organized ...

These threads are queer

"Let the threads be articulate." – Anni Albers Guest Contributor Clarity Haynes / The wall text at the portal to the exhibition "Queer Threads," currently at the Leslie-Lohman Museum in ...

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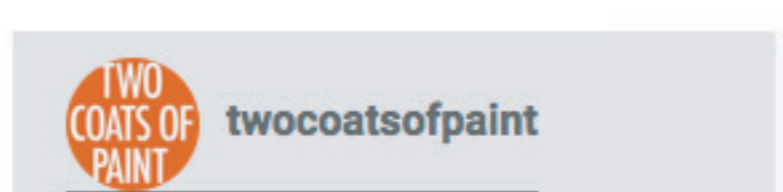
Santa Fe: A visit to the Railyard Arts District

Contributed by Katie Fuller / On a recent trip to Santa Fe, New Mexico, I was eager to check out the growing art scene in the Railyard Arts District. Being ...

Fiction: Brooklyn Bento Box [Ara Tucker]

This week Ara Tucker, a graduate of Princeton University's Art History and Visual Arts program and an alumna of the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference contributes "Brooklyn Bento Box," a story about an artist preparing for an upcoming ...

FEATURED ON INSTAGRAM



#donanelson @tangteachingmuseum #salonstyle #largescale #painting Based on her mother's pastels in Indiana 2002



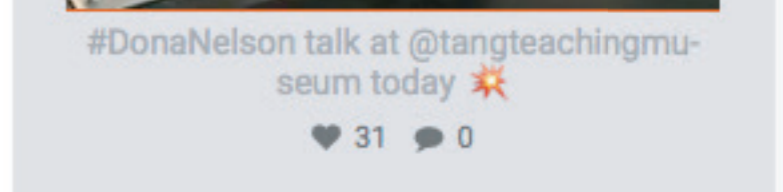
#DonaNelson talk at @tangteachingmuseum today



Thanks @laurelfarrin for a little Brooklyn in Saratoga Springs



History: Pigeon West, #Yaddo



Don't take the #happypills #scooter-laforge @theodoreartbk



From email: "In 1866, President Andrew Johnson pressured Ulysses S. Grant into joining him in a series of rallies where he aired his vulgarity and racism." Via @newyorkermag / Photograph by Universal



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