

THE DRAWING ROOM 16R Newtown Lane, East Hampton, NY 11937 631.324.5016

SUZANNE BOCANEGRA
wall installations and selected collages

October 6 – November 13, 2005

Concurrent with Jill Musnicki's exhibition, Suzanne Bocanegra's show will feature two wall installations from her series, *All of the Petals in Jan Brueghel the Elder's Bouquets*, and selected recent collages.

In her striking installations that deconstruct the floral still life paintings of Jan Brueghel the Elder (Flemish, 1568–1625), Bocanegra investigates Baroque notions of wealth and collecting. The larger installation is based on the opulent bouquet depicted in Brueghel's *Flowers in a Ceramic Vase* of 1620 and measures 113 x 72 inches; the smaller one (72 x 42 inches) was inspired by *Painted Flower Vase*, also of 1620. For these monumental works, Bocanegra's process begins with meticulous counting of the petals in the Dutch master's work and is followed by a precise mapping of the composition. She proceeds by making cut paper petals painted with gouache and wax and attaches these to linen stems. Next, the artist groups her petals in clusters that correspond to the individual flowers in Brueghel's painting. And in the final step, Bocanegra pins these clusters to the wall where they hang inverted from their linen stems like impeccably preserved dried flowers, arranging them according to their placement in Brueghel's composition. The tactile, robust quality of her materials in both installations transmits both the aesthetic and cultural extravagance of the original paintings through a post-modern lens.

In three recent collages Bocanegra distills *Kitchen Scene*, an elaborate allegorical painting made in 1605 by the Dutch mannerist artist Joachim Antonisz Uytewael (1566-1638). Bocanegra's interest in this work concentrated on how Uytewael's calculated distribution of the color red in abundant elements throughout the painting served to unify an intensely complex and ambitious composition. Using these formal properties as a point of departure, Bocanegra's collages are characterized by a complex web of geometric forms cut from neutral toned papers and punctuated by red in spare horizontal and vertical brushstrokes.

A group of intimate collages from 2002 echo place and more personal experience. For this series, Bocanegra arranged scraps of found paper, felt and other castoffs she gathered while a fellow at The American Academy in Rome to create gridded compositions based on layouts that intrigued her on the pages of an illustrated book of European folk textiles.

New York artist Suzanne Bocanegra has exhibited widely in the United States and in Europe. She holds an MFA from San Francisco Art Institute and BFA from The University of Texas, Austin. She has been recognized with numerous awards including the Prix de Rome and grants from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation, The National Endowment for the Arts and The New York Foundation for the Arts. Currently she is one of five artists featured in a show at Wave Hill's Glyndor Gallery where her site-specific installation is a personal examination of the plants that grew in New England prior to the European colonization.

Gallery hours: Thursday – Saturday, Monday 11-5; Sunday 1-5
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