

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUE HEATLEY Paintings

October 20 – November 26, 2017



Pink Rumble, 2017, acrylic, flashe, ink on linen, 30 x 40 in



Dear One, 2017, acrylic, flashe on linen, 30 x 24 in

From October 20 through November 26, The Drawing Room is pleased to present an exhibition highlighting dynamic new paintings by Sue Heatley that extend her abstract visual language in a fresh and assertive direction. Heatley's exploration of the physicality of different mediums has been central to her thirty-year studio practice, which has encompassed printmaking, ceramics and painting. Recently, her pivotal shift to working directly on linen with opaque, fast drying pigments has fostered an immediacy in her process that influenced the genesis of the bold and labyrinthine paintings on view. Several earlier works on handmade paper that combine monotype and linocut printing with collage and gouache brushwork allow viewers to trace the evolution of her newest imagery and the impact of her choice of materials.

In making her new paintings on the textured linen, Heatley embraced the challenge of working without preliminary studies. Within each animated picture field, brightly colored biomorphic forms and their stark white counterparts converge and intersect in interlocking configurations silhouetted against the neutral background. Layered over the voluptuous yet flat opaque shapes, clusters of black dots and sinuous linear patterns introduce a sense of motion and spatial depth. Pentimenti of earlier brushwork and delicate traces of pencil and ink add subtlety. Titles such as *Pink Rumble*, *Archer* and *Getaway* underscore the inexplicable hint of anthropomorphism and ebullient energy that imbue Heatley's graphic paintings.

In several works, matte black circular shapes that flow over the picture surface evoke molecular reactions captured under the extreme magnification of a scientific instrument. Larger bulging forms below appear cropped at the edges of the picture plane, enhancing a sense of tension in keeping with the global turbulence that was brewing as the paintings evolved. By contrast, *Shine for Now* conveys an airier, expansive atmosphere in which swirling linear patterns conjure the artist's observations of murmurations of starlings in flight. *Dear One* features lacey white lines that recall the sgraffito articulations incised in her earlier clay sculptures and the rhythmic marks she has often carved in linoleum. Additions of silver Tyvek and metallic flashe paint provide glints of reflected light to palette of matte blacks and high-keyed primary colors that animate the new work.

(over)

Born in Ohio, Sue Heatley received a BA in art history from Hiram College and later studied printmaking at the Richmond Printmaking Workshop in Virginia. In 2006 after twenty years as a practicing artist in Richmond, Heatley relocated to East Hampton, New York where she lives and works in the historic artist community of Springs. This is The Drawing Room's second solo exhibition of her work. She has also exhibited at the International Print Center New York and Turn Gallery in New York City, as well as the Hill Gallery, 1708 Gallery, Quirk Gallery and The Visual Arts Center in Richmond, Virginia. Her work is represented in numerous public and corporate collections, including the Special Collections and Archives of Virginia Commonwealth University, the United States Department of State, Washington, DC, Estée Lauder Companies, Media General Company and Milbank, Tweed, Hadley, McCloy. Among the publications that have featured her work are *Hamptons Cottages & Gardens*, *Beach Magazine* and *Ceramics Monthly*.

www.drawingroom-gallery.com

Hours: Friday, Saturday & Sunday 11-5, and by appointment

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