

Barbara Strasen Paintings

May 16 to June 30, 2024

Opening Reception:
Saturday, May 18, 4 to 6 pm

Susan Eley Fine Art
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Hudson, NY 12534
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Gallery Hours: Thursday-Monday, 11AM to 5PM and by appointment

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S-SECOND acrylic and Flash on Yupo and canvas, 36" x 24"

Barbara Strasen manipulates memories by finding the malleable moments of perception. In the "S" series, a figure appears in each painting. Yet, it is only a silhouette, blending into the architecture and backgrounds. For the artist, this figure's identity and significance are personal. For the viewers, she crafts mysterious worlds. Is the figure going into a cave, or perhaps emerging out from it? Her creations reside in an unknown state that echoes the human experience—beginnings and endings, obscurity and clarity.

Strasen states: "I seek to slow people down, and to be surprised." In her painted lenticular prints, viewers see different images as they move across the piece. The works are combinations of multiple images, revealing that perception is not stable: "something is interrupted; something is underneath; something is alive and changing." Strasen employs both nature and art history, with a particular fondness for Albrecht Dürer's compositions and cloud formations. She seeks to "take the ancient things and make them contemporary" and vice versa within her visual practice.

Strasen achieves this through painted needlepoint equivalents and collage methods as well. She finds connections between seemingly unlike things within her layering, thus proving a new perspective on reality.