

Since 1973, a gallery promoting the work of women artists and serving the community through public events

547 W. 27th Street, Suite 301
New York, NY 10001
(212) 367-8994
(212) 367-8984 fax
Tues. – Sat. 12 – 6PM
info@soho20gallery.com
www.soho20gallery.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nancy Azara
Darla Bjork
Monica Bock
Anne Elliott
Joan Giordano
Lucy Hodgson
Eve Ingalls
Francine LeClercq
Harriet Lyons
Cynthia Mailman
Melissa Phegley
Sandra Sewing
Kathy Stark

BOARD OF ADVISORS

Linda Cunningham
Ann Sutherland Harris
Cynthia Navaretta
Vernita Nemeč
Faith Ringgold
Miriam Schapiro

GALLERY DIRECTOR

Jenn Dierdorf

SOHO20
C H E L S E A

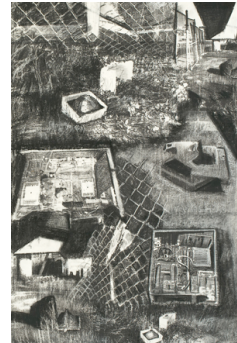
For Immediate Release:

JOAN RYAN RUINLUST

February 26 – March 23, 2013

Opening Reception:
Thursday February 28th, 6-8pm

SOHO20 Chelsea Gallery
547 W. 27th St. #301 NY



Above: *Ruinlust*, detail, Charcoal on paper, 80x45 inches, 2013

SOHO20 Chelsea gallery presents *RUINLUST*, an exhibition of new work by Joan Ryan. The collection of mixed media drawings including graphite, ink, collage and photo-transfers will be on view through March 23rd.

The impetus for Ryan's work is what the Naturalists and Romantic Landscape painters referred to as *Ruckenfigur*, a figure placed in a sprawling landscape contemplating life's quandaries. *RUINLUST* replaces the human figure in that sense with the discarded objects from Western culture, specifically the iconic and nostalgic television set.

On view in the exhibition are two distinct bodies of work, an installation of many small works called "Street Life" and a series of large mixed-media drawings that represent a more entropic outlook on our propensity for consumption. "Street Life" is a year-long project Ryan undertook in her Brooklyn neighborhood of DUMBO where she maintains her studio. Documenting the street life of a discarded tv, first by photo and then through drawing, she captures a brief but intimate moment of these objects that quickly transgress through desirable, technological and expensive to cumbersome, obsolete and worthless. Ryan would revisit these sites each day to record any changes, many of the sets occupying curbs for many weeks.

Author Margaret Sheffield writes, "Joan Ryan's paintings contrast a lush, unabashedly beautiful "nature" to objects such as discarded TV monitors and computers "techno/trash" which disconnect man from nature. The theme is grim, but the painting, in a virtuoso style of colored inks, is life affirming and sumptuous".

Joan Ryan is a Boston based artist whose work has been exhibited worldwide. She has received grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, The Puffin Foundation, and George Sugarman Foundation. In 2011 she was awarded the Lillian Orlowsky and William Freed Grant from the Provincetown Art Association and Museum. She received her MFA in Painting from Boston University studying with James Weeks and John Wilson. Her recent "O King" project was included in 2006 Women's Caucus for Art National Conference panel on "Public Memory" and exhibited as a solo exhibition at The Cambridge Multi Cultural Center in Cambridge, MA. She has been an active member of WCA for more than twenty years. Most recently she was Artist in Residence at DADA Post, Berlin Germany where she exhibited her work. She is affiliated The Drawing Center NY, NY, and The Drawing Project in Boston, MA. This is her first solo exhibition at SOHO20. For more information please contact the gallery at info@soho20gallery.com or 212.367.8994.