

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

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For Immediate Release

Darla Bjork

Windows: On the Other Side

October 1 – October 26, 2013

Reception: Thursday October 3rd, 6-8pm



Above: Window Series #6, Encaustic and Oil Stick on Wood Panel, 29"x 29", 2013

Darla Bjork's oil stick and encaustic *Windows* vibrate between ethereal landscape abstractions and architectonic, vividly spatial images—a romantic dialogue connecting the outside with what comes from within. Taking elements of her fluid earlier series, especially *Water*, the *Windows* are developed according to a grid: still effervescent, still active, but overseen by a monumental, painterly architecture. Window panes, window frames, girders, posts and lintels, Stonehenge in the blue mist, the towers of Notre Dame—maybe they are there, or maybe they are not, hovering in an uncertain, atmospheric domain of sky blue, pale green, and yellow. Bjork's expressionistic layering takes all-over composition to a kind of epic infinity, while the question of when a painting is "finished" is rooted in the series' conceptual focus on life and what, if anything, comes after.

The *Windows* transform the traditional pictorial relationship between object and setting, emphasizing instead the interchangeability between outside and inside, what is behind a structure versus in front of it, and what can hide beneath. With a compelling combination of intuition and decisiveness, Bjork's *Windows* achieve the simultaneous expression of the Renaissance window into space, abstraction's shattering of that window—and the psychological crossbeams holding it all in place.

Excerpted from an essay by Derin Tanyol

Born in Minnesota, Bjork attended St Olaf College and the University of Minnesota Medical School. She has painted for over 30 years and for the last several years has worked with encaustic and oil stick to achieve her deeply layered and textured surfaces. Exhibiting in both the United States and abroad, she most recently attended an artists' residency in Greve, Italy where she made oil pastel sketches for the work in this exhibit. She participated in the Woodstock Byrdcliffe Guild Artists' Studio Tour 2013 and has showed in several group shows at her gallery since her last solo exhibition there. Bjork lives in New York City and Woodstock in upstate New York where she has her studio. She has been a member of the SOHO20 Gallery since 1997.

For more information please contact the gallery director at [212.367.8994](tel:212.367.8994) or email info@soho20gallery.com or the artist at db@darlabjork.com.