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Member Exhibition

Kathy Stark: *In Plain Sight*

October 15 - November 9, 2015

Opening Reception: Sat. October 17, 1-5PM

"The grid's mythic power is that it makes us able to think we are dealing with materialism (or sometimes science, or logic), while at the same time it provides us with a release into belief (or illusion, or fiction)." ¹

SOHO20 is pleased to present *In Plain Sight*, an exhibition of new works by artist and SOHO20 member, Kathy Stark. In this statement from Rosalind Krauss' seminal 1979 essay *Grids*, commenting on the power and proliferation of the grid through the twentieth century in art, she illuminates the 'drama'² in the different modes of expression that are invoked by this form. It is precisely the duality upon which Krauss expounds that ruminates through Kathy Stark's recent body of work. Creating a language with simple standardized forms, she employs this now century-long exploration of the grid as her point of continuity.

The base of each work begins with a found print or graphic. Using encaustic, collage, and drawing, she renders each work an obsessive code of repetition and patterning. In this current series, wallpaper test strips, knot tying diagrams, and old monument maps of Paris, London, and Rome peek through graphic surfaces. Drawn directly over the images, Stark's irregular grids, words, and symbols create an optical tension, conflating and pulling the intricate surface between drawing and ground.

As Krauss explains, because it can be either representative of the spiritual or of scientific logic, the grid visually formulates the juncture where these two conceptions collide. Within the grid, these sensibilities are at odds with each other, while emanating from the exact same visual language.³ Likewise, Stark's works simultaneously exist as both material and content, weaving the viewer back and forth between hard lines and mysterious intimacy. At times employing diaristic, yet indecipherable writing, runes, lines and grids, Stark continually holds her viewers at a distance - reminding us to regard the larger picture, while she gets lost in the details.

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¹ Rosalind Krauss. "Grids." *October*, Vol. 9 (Summer, 1979): 50-64.

² *Ibid.* p. 54

³ *Ibid.*