

BRYAN MILLER GALLERY

Soft Math

David Aylsworth, Rachel Beach, Sarah Cain, Nathlie Provosty, Leigh Ruple

November 4, 2011 - January 7, 2012

Opening Reception: Friday November 4, 6 - 8pm

Bryan Miller Gallery is pleased to present *Soft Math*, a group exhibition including artists David Aylsworth, Rachel Beach, Sarah Cain, Nathlie Provosty & Leigh Ruple. *Soft Math* explores the intersection of geometry and personality in the work of five artists. This premise of this group exhibition ignores vast areas of each artist's practice and focuses on a single aspect: the development and exploration of an emotive and intuitive geometry in the creation of their art.

David Aylsworth's canvases are records of painterly activity. In some paintings, shapes are defined only by slight shifts in white and the raised edges of brushed-on oil paint. In others, chromatic geometric forms compete for dominance or eventually cooperate to form interlocking planes. Aylsworth's math is a proprietary blend of refinement and whimsy.

Rachel Beach combines illusionistic painting and angular stacked forms in her architecturally inclined and expertly crafted sculptures. By playing actual shadows off of simulated shadows, she creates just the right amount of confusion and intrigue. Beach's math is rigorous, nostalgic and playfully deceptive.

Sarah Cain uses various materials, along with color and form to convey spontaneous, direct feeling in her work. Her paintings are full of exuberance and curiosity, but through cutting, layering and collage she also embraces the fragile and complex. Cain's math is emotionally intelligent and of the most lyric variety.

In Nathlie Provosty's black ink on paper paintings, stark forms of varying scales are arranged side by side, sometimes bleeding in to one another. She evokes both the tabulated compositions of Kandinsky and the eerie beauty of an MRI scan. Provosty's math is modern mythology meets ancient medicine.

Leigh Ruple's brand of geometric abstraction developed directly out of her earlier figurative painting. There is still a sense of the human form in her new paintings but all of the body parts seem to have passed through some sort of organic/orgasmic prism. Ruple's math is sensual, self-aware and bathed in color.

David Aylsworth received his BFA from Kent State University (1989) and was a resident of the Museum of Fine Art, Houston's Core Program (1989-91). His work is in the permanent collections of the MFAH, The Dallas Museum, El Paso Museum & The Museum of South Texas, Corpus Christi. Aylsworth is represented by Inman Gallery, Houston and Holly Johnson Gallery, Dallas. He lives and works in Houston.

Rachel Beach studied at Yale (MFA 2001) and Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Halifax (BFA 1998). She recently received a Socrates Sculpture Park Emerging Artist Fellowship (2010) and her last solo exhibition was review by Roberta Smith in the New York Times (March 2011). Beach lives and works in Brooklyn.

Sarah Cain received her MFA at UC Berkeley and her BFA at The San Francisco Art Institute. She currently has an installation on view at the Masonic Lodge in Marfa, TX with the Los Angeles Nomadic Division and is included in the exhibition "Two Schools of Cool" at The Orange County Museum of Art. Her upcoming 2012 exhibitions venues include SFMoMA and the Imperial Belvedere Palace Museum, Vienna. Cain is represented by Anthony Meier Fine Art, San Francisco, Bryan Miller Gallery, Houston & Honor Fraser, LA. She lives and works in Los Angeles.

Nathlie Provosty studied at U Penn, Philadelphia (MFA 2007) and at the Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore (BFA 2004). She has been awarded a studio fellowship at the Marie Walsh Sharpe Art Foundation (2010) and a Fulbright Grant for studying painting in India (2005). Her work has been reviewed in Whitehot Magazine, The Brooklyn Rail, The Bombay Times and Time Out Mumbai. Provosty lives and works in Brooklyn.

Leigh Ruple studied at The Cooper Union School of Art (BFA 2006), the Yale Norfolk Program (2005) and is currently pursuing her MFA at Bard College. She has been included in exhibitions at ATM Gallery, NYC, Yukiko Kawase Gallery, Paris, Marlborough Gallery Chelsea, NYC, The Bruce High Quality Foundation, Brioklyn, and Sara Meltzer Projects, NYC. Ruple lives and works in Brooklyn.