

Long View Gallery Presents “New Work,” Paintings by Paula Crawford



Rivercells (detail) 76" x 76", Oil on Canvas

Show Dates: December 9 – January 16

Opening Reception: Thursday, December 9, 6:30-8:30pm

Washington, D.C. – Several years ago, on the threshold of an unusual sickness, Paula Crawford began painting walls of spherical forms. When she was finally diagnosed with Hepatitis C, her doctor showed her an image of the cells causing the disease. They were clustered spheres—almost identical to what she had been painting. Whether this was a case of tuned inner eye or pure chance we will never know.

These liminal landscapes explore the threshold of the macro-and microscopic. Crawford builds each painting obsessively, stone by stone, from the bottom up, with the hope that it will elicit in the viewer the pleasure one feels in nature, not so much because it looks like nature as has its rhythm and resonance. Meaning occurs, not through replacement—this equals that—but through association. “I’m attempting to make paintings that fall between the material and the ideal, between order and disorder, between the scientific and the poetic.”

Crawford's call to paint these forms has remained after a yearlong treatment and final cure. In the beginning, the forms in the paintings appeared as cellular walls, dense and impenetrable. Still, they seemed beautiful like river rocks under rushing water, or an infinite array of candy coated gumballs. Slowly, alongside her recovery, the wall of cells broke down, folding away towards a horizon. As if laying out the path to recovery, the cells became land or seascape, floors rather than walls, like stones paths-easily passable, creating distance rather than confinement.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Paula Crawford has had exhibitions in New York, California, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, Ohio, and Washington, as well as international shows in Peru, Paraguay, Canada, and Jordan. Venues include the *Instituto Cultural Peruano Norteamericano* in Lima, ARC in Toronto, Centro Cultural Paraguayo-Americano, as well as the *ART in Embassies* program in Amman. National venues include the *Time Square Lightboard*, *Franklin Furnace*, The Whitney Museum ISP, and *Joyce Goldstein Gallery* in New York City and *Troyer*, *Fitzpatrick Lassman* and *Numark* galleries in Washington. Also, the The Mexican Cultural Institute, Maryland Art Place, the Emerson Gallery (McLean Project for the Arts), and the Kennedy Museum in Ohio.

Crawford's exhibitions have been reviewed or covered in international publications, such as Peru's *El Comercio*, the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, Paraguay's *Diario abc Color*, as well as the *Washington Post*, *Stroll Magazine*, *Articulate Contemporary Art Review*, the *Baltimore Sun*, the *Washington Review*, and *Art News*. Catalogs/brochures include the *New York Public Art Fund 10th Anniversary Catalog*, NY, *Motetes* (Instituto Cultural Peruano Norteamericano, Lima), *Fission/Fusion* (Mexican Cultural Institute), *Exposición Binacional Arte Paraguayo-Americano* (Centro Cultural Paraguayo-Americano, Asunción), *Chance and Necessity* (Maryland Art Place), *Remote Sensing* (Numark Gallery), *Paula Crawford Paintings* (Emerson Gallery).

Born and raised in Berkeley, California, Crawford received her MFA in 1988 from the San Francisco Art Institute, with a year's residency at the Whitney Museum of American Art Independent Study Program in New York (1984-5). Prior to her art studies at SFAI, she held a graduate fellowship in U.C. Berkeley's Comparative Literature department after completing her B.A. there. Crawford is currently an Associate Professor of Painting at George Mason University's School of Art.



long view gallery

part gallery. part event space. all art.

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