

Sideshow

PRESS RELEASE

JOAN THORNE / RECENT PAINTINGS

November 19 – December 19

Opening November 20 6-9 pm

Sideshow is presenting a solo exhibition of new paintings by Joan Thorne, who first achieved significant critical acclaim nearly thirty years ago. The exhibition is accompanied by a 32-page catalogue. An essay by art historian, Peter Hastings Falk, “The Ghost Picked Me”:The Life and Art of Joan Thorne,” bears a title taken from a quote by Bob Dylan, one of Thorne’s peers. Falk points out that Thorne emerged from the shadows of the Abstract Expressionists, determined to make her own mark on painting.

In 1972, her painting was included in the Whitney Museum’s last Annual Exhibition (thereafter it became the Biennial Exhibition). The next year,Thorne was given a rare solo show at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, DC. In 1979, she was included in Barbara Rose’s seminal exhibition, “American Painting: The Eighties,” at the Grey Gallery at New York University. Her painting has been included in two Whitney Museum Biennial Exhibitions . Thorne has had three Retrospective Museum Exhibitions in the Caribbean at: Museo de Casa de Bastidas, Dom. Rep., Museo de La Plaza de la Cultura, Dom. Rep and Museo De Las Americas, Puerto Rico. In 1987 the American Academy awarded Thorne the Prix de Rome in Visual Arts.

The catalogue also features an essay by the painter and critic, Robert C. Morgan, titled “Joan Thorne: Traveling in Search of Light.” Morgan, who has closely followed Thorne’s career, calls her paintings “ebullient, yet enigmatic” yet confesses that “Language always falls a little short” when trying to describe “the unburdened elegance of truly significant painting. Christopher Celenza, Director of the American Academy in Rome, called Thorne’s latest series of paintings “hypnotically and beautifully evocative.”

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