



**THE NEW MODERNS:
IN SEARCH OF FORM**

JANUARY 30–APRIL 18, 2010

THE ARTISTS

Michael Scott Barrat *New York, NY*

Tom Brand *Pines, IN*

William Conger *Chicago, IL*

Eleanor Himmelfarb *Winfield, IL*

Susan Hodgkin *Indianapolis, IN*

Richard Lange *Michigan City, IN*

Delbert Michel *Traverse City, MI*

THE NEW MODERNS: IN SEARCH OF FORM

This exhibit aims to show that the art of painting is alive and well in the 21st century and that the prospect for “modern” abstract painting has not been exhausted. Of the many artists who were reviewed, seven were selected for their outstanding ability and the strength of their work. These seven artists have one thing in common – they are painters who owe their genesis to the modern movement of the 20th century. The seeds of their art can be found in Cézanne, the Cubists, and the revolution in art that occurred at the turn of that century. What should be recognized is that the modern idiom has left a profound legacy, which can still be mined today.

In this exhibit, I hope to modify an oft-prevailing sense of omission in the current art scene. The art community tries to keep up with the post-modern genre. Conceptual, video, digitally altered photographs, appropriation, installation, “banality” and kitsch art have received critical acceptance and market status. As a result, we sometimes question, where is the art? It became imperative to try to redress the balance by highlighting some of the substantial and interesting work in the more familiar medium of abstract painting.

The unifying principle of the “modern” in painting is in its adherence to formal structure, more specifically in the composition of the picture plane. As viewers we relate to structure since it refers to the “real” space that we experience in the world about us. All other components of the composition such as color, shape, line, and proportion are subordinate to the structure which we call form. In their search for form, the artists in this exhibit have created works that are strong, energetic and charged with visual interest. Our response to the works in our encounter with them is one of enjoyment and a sense of discovery as we are drawn into the viewing experience. It is this experience that we hope to foster, continuing an esthetic tradition that is still very much alive today.

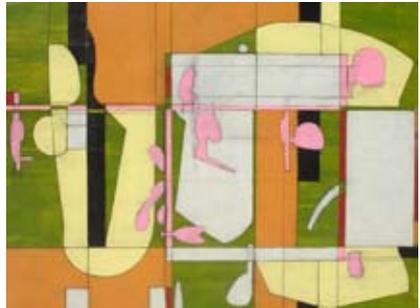
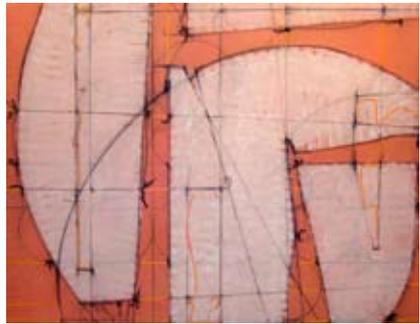
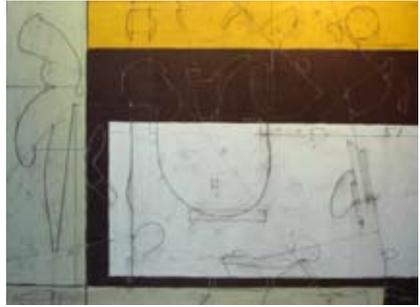
Carole Stodder, January 2010

Carole Stodder is a practicing artist with a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Chicago. As an arts activist in the '70s, she was a founding member of the Chicago Artists' Coalition and editor of the Chicago Artists' News. In later years, she served as Assistant Administrator of the Illinois Artisans Program. As a painter, she established a studio on Chicago's west side. In 1996 she moved to Indiana where she has been active at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts and in the Area Artists Association. Currently she maintains a studio at her residence in the town of Pines.

**MICHAEL SCOTT BARRATT
(1956—2009)**

Trained as a painter and an architect, Michael Scott Barratt worked throughout the United States and in Shanghai. His award-winning and published projects in various media and formats range from governmental buildings to toy design, from oil on canvas to graphite on paper. The dossier of his work and exhibitions reflects his roots in Chicago—including study at the Art Institute—his architectural training at Yale University, and his career in New York City.

His paintings and drawings are composed of multiple fields and scales of graphic information. Each composition is initially governed by an underlying grid or structure, often quite irregular, following an internal and idiosyncratic logic that suits the canvas proportion. Within, around and on top of this armature evolve shapes and figures, forms that are mobile, that slip easily from different disciplines. Forms are fragmented, geometrically compound, and distorted or attenuated to create density and complexity that does not coalesce into an obvious meaning or a literal depiction. The work holds disparate and idiosyncratic motifs in a tenuous, dynamic balance.



From top left:

NYC Figure #1 10.07
Acrylic on canvas
30" x 40"

NYC Figure #2 2.08
Acrylic on canvas
22" x 28"

NYC Figure #1 6.07
Acrylic on canvas
24" x 30"



Clockwise, from top left:

Chasm

Oil on panel
48" x 41"

Upward Bound

Oil on panel
48" x 42"

Riff Interlude

Oil on panel
48" x 42"



TOM BRAND

Tom Brand is a contemporary painter who uses traditional materials and processes to create his abstract works on panel. He is an award-winning artist who has been a part of the art community for over forty years. Born in Indianapolis, Indiana, Brand came to Chicago to study at the School of the Art Institute under the GI Bill. Trained as a printer, he owned Galaxie Press in Chicago where he printed comics and posters for the Hairy Who and other members of the art community. As a practicing artist, he was a founding member of the Chicago Artists' Coalition. Brand continues to exhibit frequently in galleries and museums in Chicago and throughout northwest Indiana.

WILLIAM CONGER

A Chicago-based abstract painter, Conger's work has been exhibited in the midwest and nationally for more than fifty years. He attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, the University of New Mexico and the University of Chicago. He taught for many years at DePaul University and then at Northwestern University where he is now professor emeritus of art theory and practice. In 2009 The Chicago Cultural Center presented a retrospective of Conger's paintings drawn from more than sixty private and public collections including The Art Institute of Chicago, The Museum of Contemporary Art, The Rockford Art Museum, and the Illinois State Museum. William Conger lives and works in Chicago where he is represented by the Roy Boyd Gallery.



From top right:

Inca

Oil on wood
20" x 16"

Player

Oil on linen
60" x 60"

Geisha

Oil on canvas
36" x 36"



**ELEANOR HIMMELFARB
(1910–2009)**

Eleanor Himmelfarb was born August 16, 1910, in St. Charles, Illinois, and spent her childhood on farms in the Fox River Valley. She began taking classes at the Institute of Design in the early 1940s and later studied painting and natural history at the Morton Arboretum with famed naturalist May Watts. In the late 1970's, Himmelfarb became a student again, enrolling in the MFA program at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she studied with Morris Barazani. Mrs. Himmelfarb's contemporary abstract paintings have been featured in nearly 100 exhibits, galleries and publications.



Clockwise, from top left:

Cote d'Azur
Acrylic on canvas
36" x 48"

Alpha Rapture
Acrylic on canvas
36" x 48"

The Village
Acrylic on canvas
40" x 40"

SUSAN HODGIN

Born in Indianapolis, Indiana, Hodgin moved to Missoula, Montana to study creative writing at the University of Montana in 1996. She realized 3 years into her writing program that her characters never spoke, never moved, but simply existed in gorgeous settings. Hodgin soon switched her studies to painting and received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting from the University of Montana, Missoula in 2001. In 2002, Hodgin moved back to Indianapolis to pursue a career in painting. Internationally exhibited and collected, she works out of her studio at the Harrison Center for The Arts in vibrant downtown Indianapolis.



From top right:

Rock Wall

Oil on canvas
48" x 48"

Untitled #2

Oil on canvas
26" x 30"

Untitled #3

Oil on canvas
36" x 48"



RICHARD C. LANGE

A Chicago artist and retired Adjunct Professor in Fine Arts and art education at Loyola University Lange holds a BA from the University of Illinois, Chicago and an MA in Inter-Arts from Columbia College, Chicago. Lange has appeared in numerous one person and group shows in the United States and Europe. His drawings and paintings are included in many museums and corporate and private collections. He is represented by Melanee Cooper Gallery in Chicago, Craighead-Green Gallery, Dallas, TX., Abel Joseph Gallery in Brussels, Belgium and Blink Contemporary Art in Michigan City, IN. In addition to winning awards in many juried shows, Lange was the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship in 1990.



Clockwise, from top left:

Repairt No.5

Acrylic and oil on canvas
60" x 50"

Untitled

Acrylic and oil on canvas
40" x 46"

Repairt No.4

Acrylic and oil on canvas
60" x 50"



DELBERT MICHEL

A practicing artist for forty-five years, Michel began his career as an instructor at Hope College, in Holland Michigan. He became a professor and department chair while remaining committed to his art—exhibiting both nationally and internationally. He is represented in many private, corporate, university, and museum collections throughout the U.S., Europe and Mexico. Michel continues to live in northern Michigan, where he maintains a studio in Traverse City and continues an active life of art and travel.



From top:

Bayside Riff

Mixed media on canvas

36" x 47"

Kilim Images: Birdsong

Mixed media on paper

27 1/2" x 35 1/4"

Kilim Series: Troika Dance

Mixed media on canvas

39 1/2" x 49 1/2"



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