

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Les Yeux du Monde presents
Stefanie Newman: *Reconstructing Art History*
And
Deborah Kahn and Esmé Thompson: *Paintings*
7 – 29 September 2007
First Friday Opening, Sept 7: 5:30 – 7:30

For the month of September, Les Yeux du Monde is pleased to present two new exciting exhibitions: **Stefanie Newman: *Reconstructing Art History*** and **Deborah Kahn and Esmé Thompson: *Paintings***.

Stefanie Newman *Reconstructing Art History* will consist of wall relief sculptures of painted Bristol board and foam core that are loosely based on famous paintings by early modern masters. The paintings she chooses are often ones that she spent time with at the Art Institute in Chicago, where she grew up. Newman, who has her MFA from the University of Wisconsin and has taught at UVA, PVCC and the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has exhibited widely, is better known for her gestural expressionist paintings. Of this new format, Newman writes: “The relief medium allows me to create spatial disjunction and compressions to explore a world that, however much we might view it nostalgically, was one where individuals were faced with a growing urban experience that could be by turns socially demanding and spiritually isolating.”

Deborah Kahn and Esmé Thompson: *Paintings* will reunite two former Yale MFA graduates who are currently professors of art at American University in Washington D.C. and Dartmouth College respectively. In addition to their teaching, they each have impressive exhibition and art careers. Among a host of awards and exhibitions that could be listed, Kahn was recently awarded a Simon Guggenheim Fellowship for painting, and Thompson was named resident of the Rockefeller Foundation and of the Bogliasco Foundation in Italy, where she often returns to pursue her interest in medieval painting and the decorative arts.

Deborah Kahn finds imagery through the act of painting. Flat shapes and lines become volumes that are suggestive of figures. The physically dense, cement-like surfaces of her paintings are the result of months of searching for form. Images emerge from the painted surface and these forms are entangled in the linear web of color. Everything moves in

these paintings. The figures are deliberately ambiguous: their gender and identity are vague. This fluctuating space is a metaphor for the simultaneous existence of opposing emotions. Space in Kahn's paintings has no beginning and no end. There is no separation between color and drawing. The image, the skin of the paint, and the colored marks are one. Like living things her paintings appear as masses that cannot be penetrated.

Esmé Thompson has devoted her life to the difficult task of transforming color and pattern into light and space. Her new work is both beautiful and transcendent. Thompson creates worlds where the viewer can observe the splendor of abstract form. She builds intricate shapes using geometry derived from medieval paintings and pattern found in nature. By overlapping these patterned shapes she builds a convincing polyphonic space, reminding us that in art, as in nature, simple patterns often organize complex structures. The rich color and complex spaces are all extensions of her desire to create worlds where light and space take form. Her magical paintings glow as though an inner light was contained in the fiction of the image. Her work includes paintings on canvas, paper, board and painted metal relief pieces.

These two exhibitions will open on the First Friday, September 7 from 5:30 – 7:30. The artists will be in attendance for the preview on Thursday night, September 6 from 5:30 – 7:30. To receive an invitation to the preview, please contact us on our website www.LesYeuxduMonde.com or call us at 434-973-5566.