

Double Vision : Artists Who Instagram

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Curated by JANICE CASWELL and ERICK JOHNSON
FEBRUARY 7 – MARCH 9, 2019



The Teaching Gallery,
Hudson Valley Community College
Troy, New York

Double Vision: Artists Who Instagram

Originally exhibited in 2017 at LABspace gallery in Hillsdale, NY, this expanded version of *Double Vision: Artists Who Instagram* brings together 11 artists whose studio practice dances around and with the ubiquitous shooting and sharing of images on Instagram.

In the original version of *Double Vision*, I saw the convergence of many of the issues regularly discussed with students in our fine arts, digital media and gallery management classes: methodical studio work vs. on-the-fly instant imaging; making physical objects vs. virtual presence; intimate viewing vs. hundreds or thousands of followers; gallery walls vs. screen swipes. It seemed obvious that these works and artists had to come to The Teaching Gallery. What remained was how to re-scale the original exhibit from the charming, but truly tiny, quarters of LABspace to the much larger, two floors of The Teaching Gallery. To their great credit, artist/curators Janice Caswell and Erick Johnson were more than up to the task. This expanded exhibit offers a more comprehensive presentation of both studio and Instagram work by a slightly reconfigured roster of artists and invites us to delve a little deeper into the connections between the two modes of creation.

Thanks to Susan Jennings for first presenting this exhibit at LABspace and for introducing me to Janice and Erick; Curators Erick Johnson and Janice Caswell for their vision, energy and professionalism; the Department of Fine Arts, Theatre Arts and Digital Media and Chairman Scott Hathaway for ongoing support of The Teaching Gallery; the college's Communications and Graphics/Printing departments for their assistance; my Gallery Practicum students, as well as Gallery Assistants Collin Moore and Hannah Tremblay, for the beautiful installation and, finally, all the amazing students here at Hudson Valley Community College, whose energy and insatiable curiosity inspire us every day.

Tara Fracalossi, Associate Professor/Director
The Teaching Gallery

In Correspondence with the World

Double Vision: Artists Who Instagram engages artworks and photographs in visual conversation. Artist-curators Janice Caswell and Erick Johnson, both Instagram enthusiasts, noticed a correspondence between artworks they create in the studio and photographs they take outside of the studio. Recognizing in several artists' posts a similar correspondence, Caswell and Johnson invited them to participate in *Double Vision*. The exhibition explores an open question: how do these artists' photographic images relate to their studio practice? In other words, what prompts that sense of correspondence between the work and the world?

The artworks in the show are mostly abstract, and all the artists are active Instagram users. "You can tell your story in many ways," Johnson observes of Instagram, which appeals to people who find the platform's focus on visual communication appealing.

Caswell and Johnson based a previous version of this exhibit, *Double Vision*, on their mutual observation that they and other artists were using Instagram as a means to explore, extend, or in a variety of idiosyncratic ways inform their studio practice. For that first exhibition, the photographs were mounted as a grid on one wall, visible from any vantage point in the small gallery. This time around, each artist's photographs hang in proximity to the artworks. The new arrangement facilitates a different kind of visual conversation and invites artists and viewers alike to share impressions.

To begin with, do artists see differently than other people do? One might assume so, based on their training and the dedication of studio practice for hours at a time over many years. But the artist Ellsworth Kelly remarked on his use of the camera, "Things that interest me visually are things that anyone could have seen" (Kelly, 2016, p. 4).

Best known as a painter and sculptor, Kelly spent his formative artistic years in Paris during the 1950s. He began to take photographs while in France and continued to do so throughout his long career. Kelly associates taking photographs with inner vision: "The process takes place in the mind" (Kelly, 2016, p. 5).

For Kelly, photography was a means to explore the uncertainties of perception, light, and figure-ground relationships. In a different era, Caswell and Johnson suggest that the process of looking-seeing-photographing could be described with words like "openness, indeterminacy, intuitiveness, obliqueness." For the artists in *Double Vision*, connections between their studio work and their photography occur on deeper levels of consciousness where fragments multiply, coalesce, shift like weightless tectonic plates.

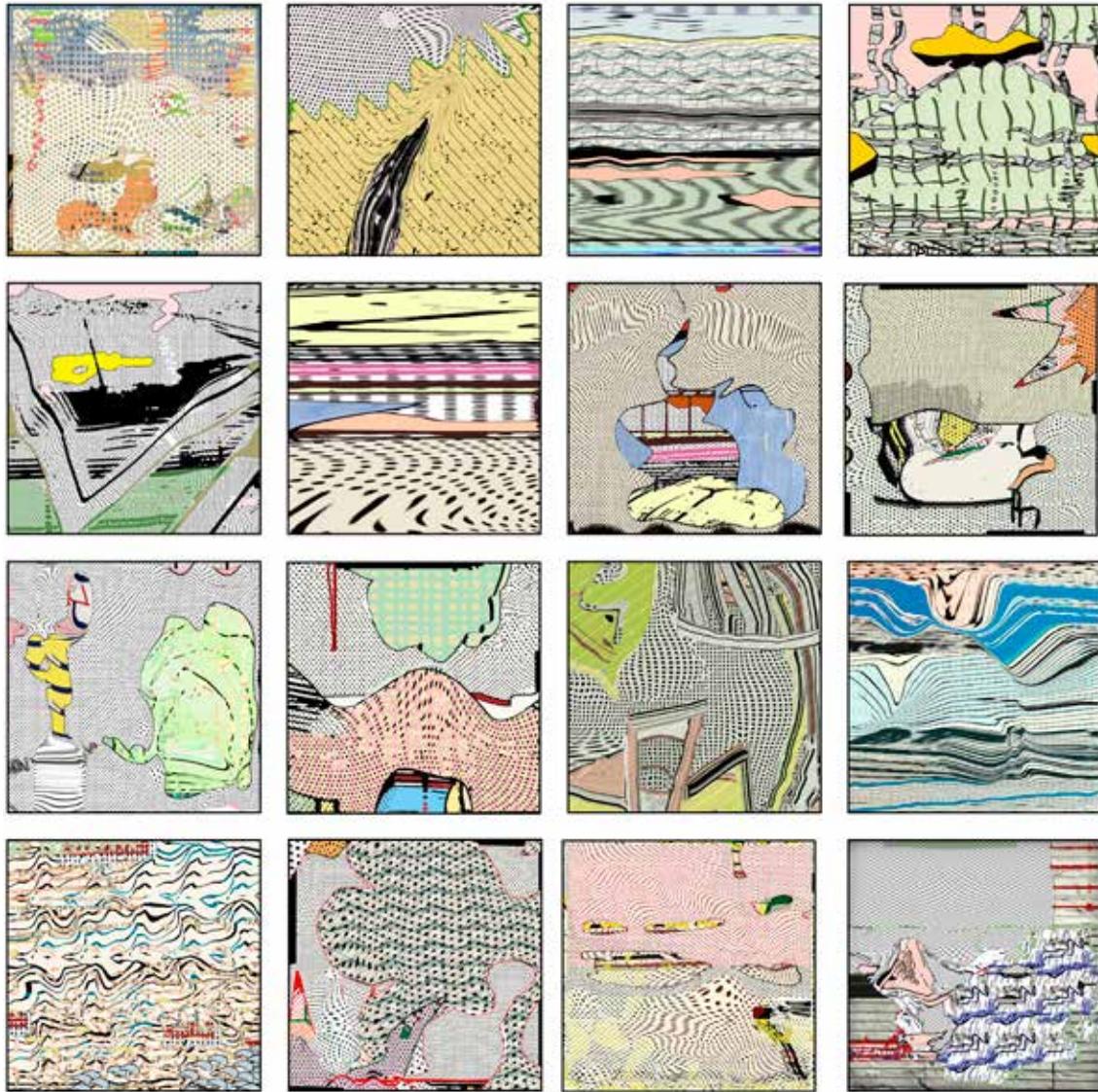
Double Vision attests to a profusion of non-linear correspondence out there in the world: platforms garnished by scalloped shadows, the striking concreteness of ephemeral arrangements; triangles, stripes, curved motifs abound. They show up in images and splinter into artworks, or is it the other way around? Take a picture and join the conversation, whispers the world.

Deborah A. Garwood
December 2018

References

Kelly, E. (2016). *Ellsworth Kelly Photographs*. New York, NY: Aperture Foundation/Matthew Marks Gallery

Rosaire Appel, New York, NY



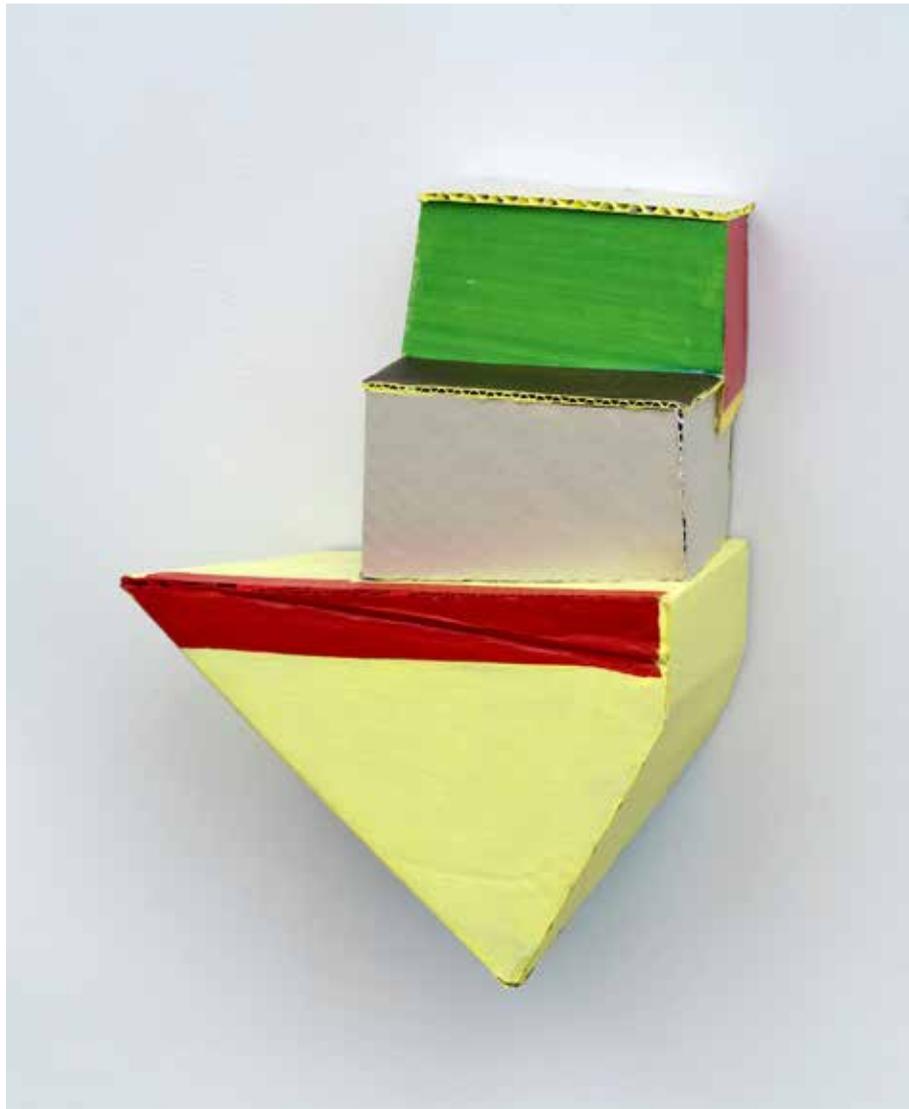
Swifts, 2013
16 pigment prints with hand-colored borders, each 11 x 11"



@rappelx



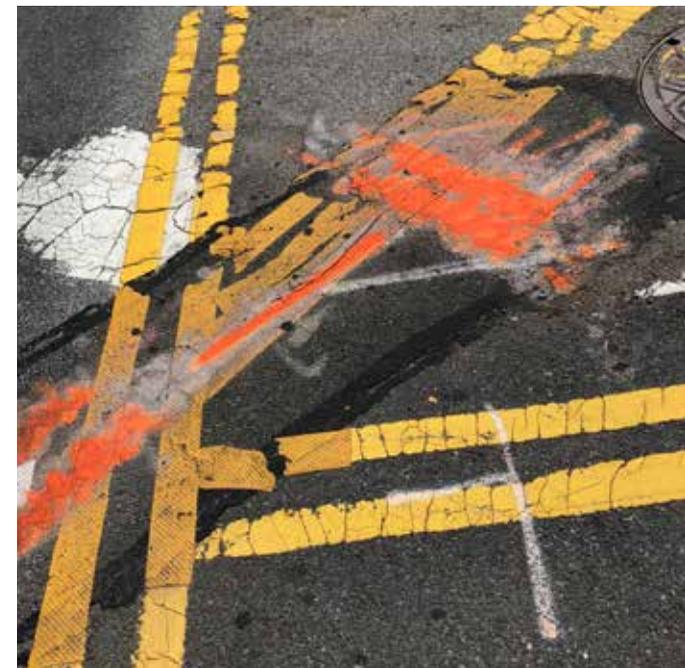
Janice Caswell, New York, NY



Construction 96, 2017
Acrylic, ink, cardboard, 13 x 9.25 x 5"



@janicecaswell



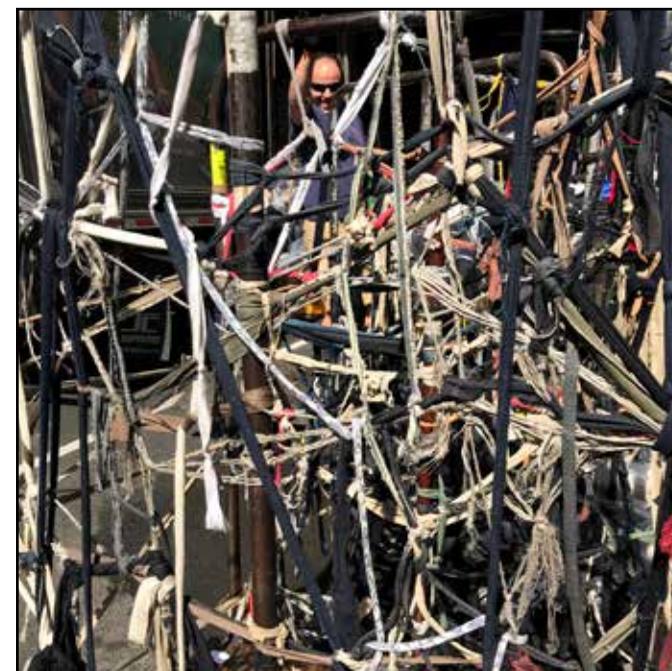
Joan Grubin, New York, NY



Partial Inventory 3, 2019
Installation, acrylic on paper, tape, approximately 120 x 168 x 20"



@joangrubin



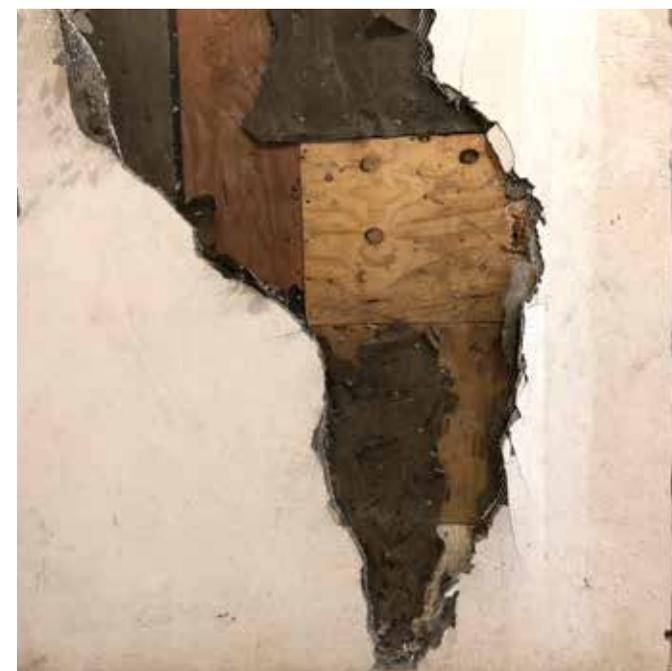
Erick Johnson, New York, NY



Polystack 3, 2018
Oil on canvas, 24 x 20"



@erickjohnson9 @erickjohnson14



Mary Lum, North Adams, MA



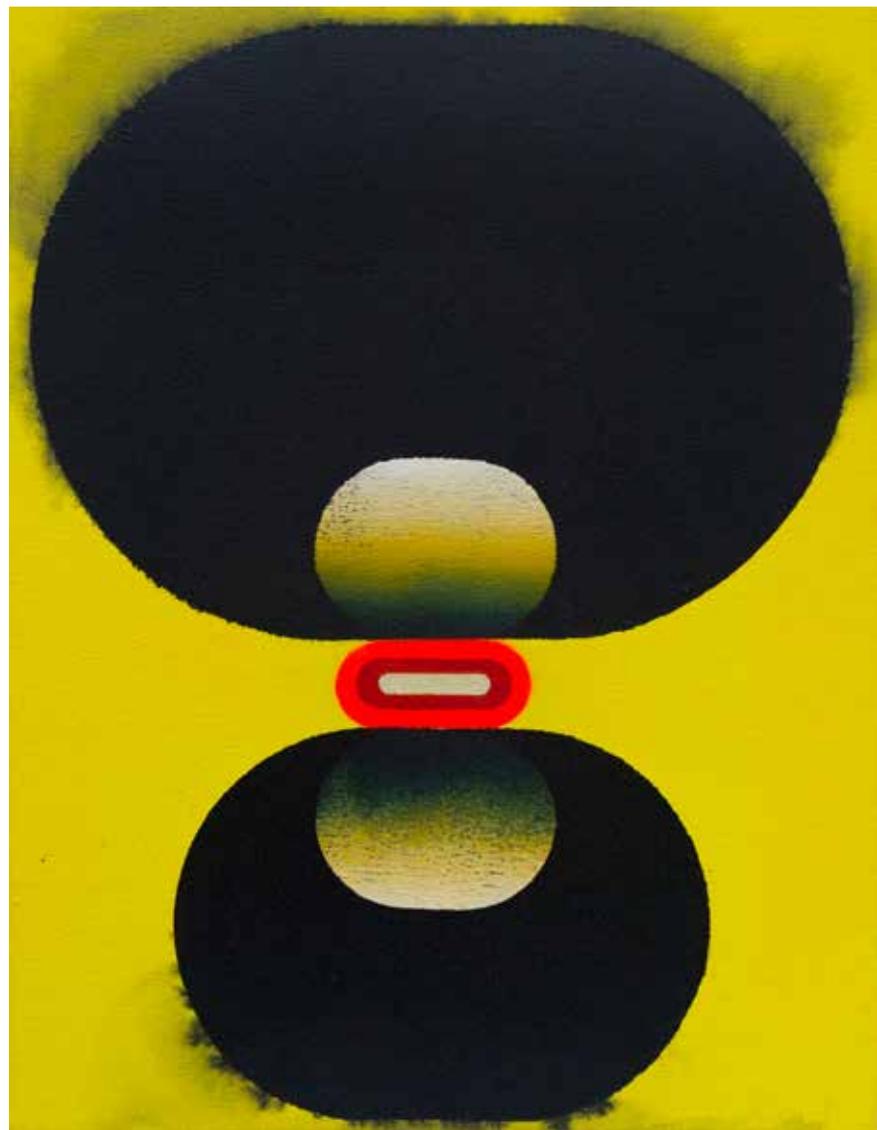
Marais, 2016
Acrylic on paper, 55 x 76.5"



@marylum



Tom Martinelli, Santa Fe, NM



Untitled, 2017
Acrylic & fluorescent acrylic on canvas, 19 x 14"



@tominelli



Doreen McCarthy, New York, NY



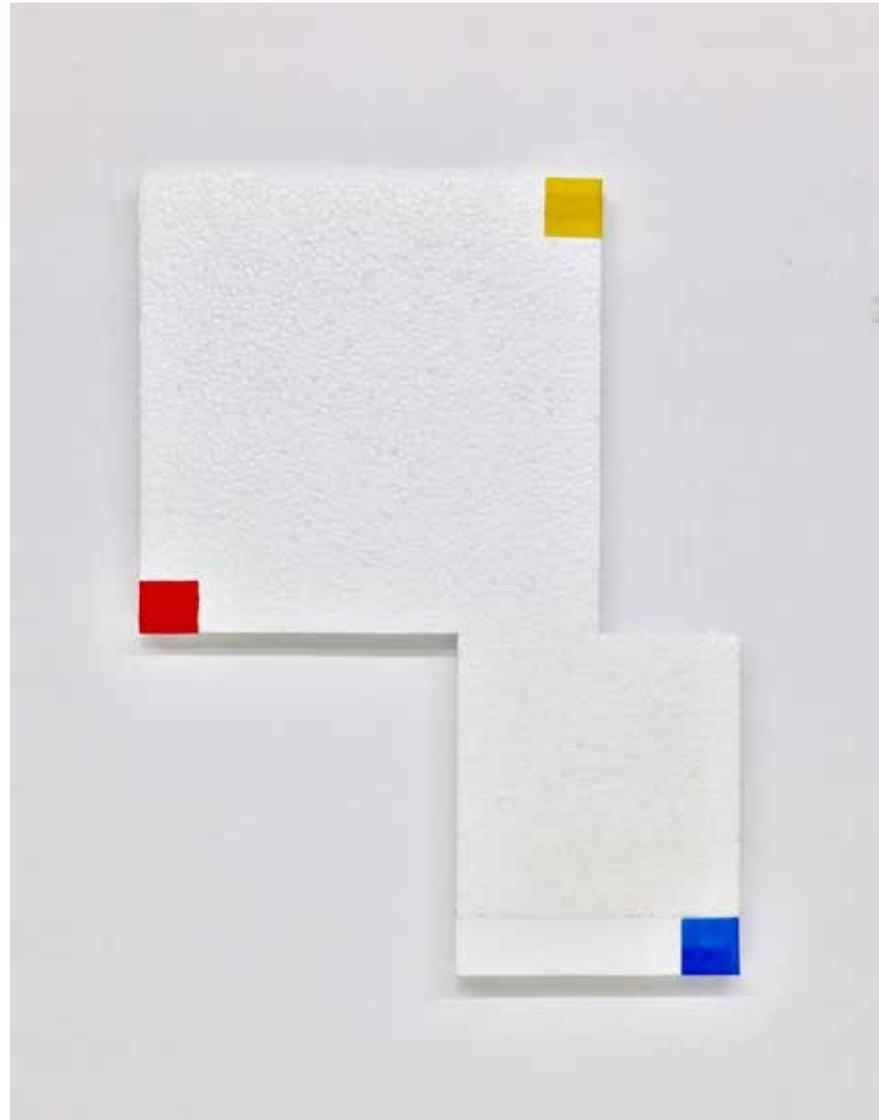
Pause, 2018
Inflated Vinyl, 108 x 84 x 80"



@mcduffdor



Tom Nicol, Mellenville, NY



Untitled 8-5-17, 2017
Acrylic on resin, 14 x 10.5"



@tom_thomasnicol



Chris Sauter, San Antonio, TX



Sacred Geometry, 2013
Sewn felt, wooden stand, approximately. 60 x 36"



@porkasmith



Karen Schifano, New York, NY



Drip, Drip, 2017
Flashe on canvas, 24 x 36"



@karenschifano



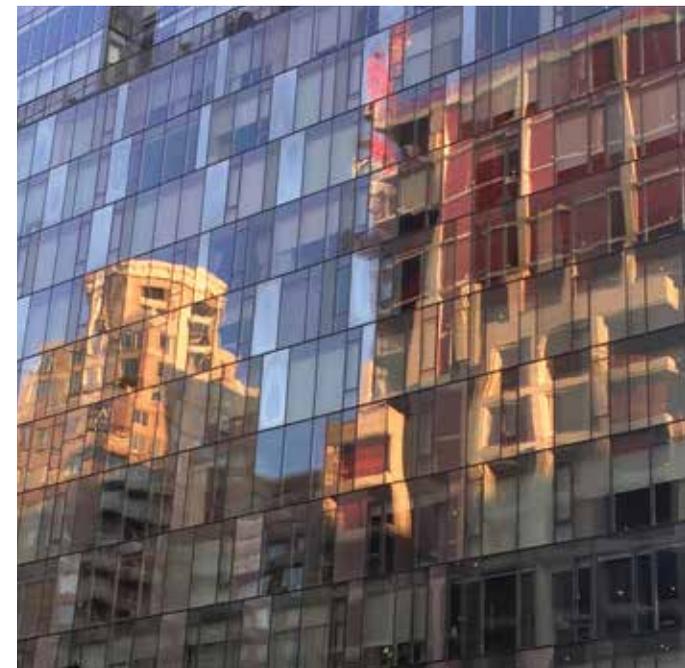
Karen Schiff, Providence, RI



Untitled (Thicket), 2016
Acrylic, latex and flashe on panel, 30 x 24"



@karen.schiff



Participating Artists // Instagram Handle

Rosaire Appel , New York, NY www.rosaireappel.com	@rappelx
Janice Caswell , New York, NY www.janicecaswell.com	@janicecaswell
Joan Grubin , New York, NY www.joangrubin.com	@joangrubin
Erick Johnson , New York, NY www.erickjohnson.com	@erickjohnson9 @erickjohnson14
Mary Lum , North Adams, MA	@marymlum
Tom Martinelli , Santa Fe, NM www.tominelli.com	@tominelli
Doreen McCarthy , New York, NY www.doreenmccarthy.com	@mcduffdor
Tom Nicol , Mellenville, NY @tom_thomasnicol	@tom_thomasnicol
Chris Sauter , San Antonio, TX www.chrissauter.com	@porkasmith
Karen Schifano , New York, NY www.karenschifano.com	@karenschifano
Karen Schiff , Providence, RI www.karen-schiff.com	@karen.schiff

Founded in 2001, The Teaching Gallery presents work in all media by emerging and mid-career artists of regional and national standing. Annual student exhibitions, visiting artist talks and performances complete the programming. Located in the Administration Building, the two-story, 2,000 square-foot gallery is a central location for the college's gallery management students to study the theories and practices of gallery management, exhibition development and artist relations.

Gallery exhibitions are supported by the Department of Fine Arts, Theatre Arts and Digital Media with assistance from the Cultural Affairs Program. All exhibitions are installed and assisted by students in gallery management classes. Special thanks to the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation for its ongoing support of receptions and special projects.

THE TEACHING GALLERY

Scott Hathaway, *Chairman, Department of Fine Arts, Theatre Arts and Digital Media*
Tara Fracalossi, *Gallery Director and Associate Professor*
Alice Busman, *Program Assistant*
Marcy Smith, *Technical Assistant*

Maria Zemantauski, *Coordinator of Cultural Affairs*

GALLERY ASSISTANTS/COLLEGE WORKERS

Collin Moore
Hannah Tremblay

CATALOG/EXHIBIT CARD DESIGN

Mark Gregory

COVER IMAGES

Rosaire Appel

LEFT: *Swifts*, 2013, 16 pigment prints with hand-colored borders, each 11 x 11"

RIGHT: Instagram image

The Teaching Gallery
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www.hvcc.edu/teachinggallery
[@theteachinggallery](https://twitter.com/theteachinggallery)

