

AMERICAN  
*art*  
COLLECTOR



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ELISABETH CONDON

# Contradictions

**E**lisabeth Condon is always open for surprises. Her artwork is pattern and chaos, beautifully combining disparate elements that coalesce in the finished product. Inspired by the Wave Hill Public Gardens—which Condon frequented during a residency in the Riverdale neighborhood in the Bronx—her new body of

florals combine pores of color and inspiration from the landscapes and from wallpaper and fabric patterns obtained from her mother. The artist says the wallpaper's repeating patterns are inspired by New York's grid system, adding that she's interested in the idea of painting natural and artificial elements. "Wave Hill is a public

garden highly maintained by specialists, so it's natural and unnatural at the same time," she explains.

527 Madison Avenue showcases these new works by the New York-based artist in its Lobby Gallery in an exhibition running through May 10. "The exhibition features four of Condon's signature multilayered





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paintings, which combine a diverse group of influences,” says 527 Madison curator Jay Grimm. “Carefully poured abstract areas are superimposed upon lush renderings of birds and flowers—a motif which references classical Chinese painting techniques learned during the artist’s numerous residencies in China.”

Condon also has a deep passion for Chinese painting, particularly Yuan Dynasty scrolls. “There are patterns in Chinese paintings, tropes that can be practiced...These tropes can be mixed and matched almost like a movement were a brushstroke, and then it can all be assembled in a painting in this expressionist way. In expressionism, you don’t know what the end result is going to be,” Condon says. “Painting becomes this field of performance. There’s something about that process and Chinese painting that you have more of a vocabulary to start with, but you still put it together in a way that it’s live action, and you don’t know how it’s going to end up.”

It all circles back to the idea of openness, of recognizing structure, but being vulnerable to the spontaneous. She explains, “It’s this formal acknowledgement of being open and alive. I can’t think of anything more exciting.” ●

**The Lobby Gallery (527 Madison Avenue)**

54<sup>th</sup> Street and Madison Avenue • New York, NY 10022 •

[www.527madisonave.com](http://www.527madisonave.com)

1  
*In the Garden, Spring*, acrylic on canvas, 54 x 63"

2  
*Tsunami Plants*, acrylic, ink and pumice on linen, 47 x 151"

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*In the Garden, Summer*, acrylic on canvas, 54 x 72"

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Elisabeth Condon in her New York studio. Photo by Brian Buckley.



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