

BEYOND RITUAL

Judith Braun and Rowan Willigan

Sept 23-Oct 29, 2023

The Re Institute is pleased to present the work of Judith Braun and Rowan Willigan. Both artists have a history of making large, site-specific installations and both artists adhere to distinctive personal systems to generate their work. These two artists were brought together based on these similar veins and then left to coordinate how to intersect their individual, bold, visual practices, within the expansive space of the gallery. The culmination is a unique fusion of figurative and abstract work. Braun's array of larger-than-life characters infuses the space with life, while Willigan's black and white abstracts, both small and wall size, are clear evidence of the human hand in motion. They each have their own voice, while listening and actually hearing one another.

Braun's collages are made from within her chosen parameters of carbon medium and symmetry. She places a variety of random materials, from crinkled paper, to a scrub brush, on the glass of a photocopier and prints with black carbon-based toner on paper. After cutting and arranging, the unplanned figures take on a life of their own, embedded with symmetry even as they twist and turn. The smaller, 54 x 23 in. pieces are mounted on vinyl sheets, the larger, 9 x 6.5 ft, mosaic-like pieces, are mounted on Tyvek paper. There are also some burnt perforation works on Tyvek paper, the figure made visible, backlit by the window light of the gallery.

Willigan's wild black and white abstract patterns spring from her Daily Drawing practice, of making two small drawings a day, one to keep and one to part with. Having begun in 2021, roughly 1,000 of these works fill one corner of the gallery, as a graphic expression of time unfolding. These spontaneous patterns are made unceremoniously and yet within the discipline of her practice. Her hand-painted mural on one large wall of the gallery, monumentalizes these daily rituals, the way one might hold onto fleeting moments. Together they are evidence of the human hand, writing in its own private language.