

THE GALLERY AT HILLSIDE SQUARE

For Immediate Release - January 2017

Francesca Azzara and Paul Pinkman present **AESTHETIC BONDS: The Intersection of Personal and Visual Influences**

January 27 - April 28, 2017

Opening Reception: Friday, January 27th, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm



Constructed Experience - *Francesca Azzara*

The Gallery at Hillside Square is pleased to present **AESTHETIC BONDS: The Intersection of Personal and Visual Influences, the works of Francesca Azzara and Paul Pinkman.** Included in this exhibit are four diptych and triptych works from the "Influences" collection that were created along with New Art Group member artists Susan Ahlstrom, Jane Caminos, Nancy Ori and Heidi Sussman.

Francesca Azzara's work remains rooted in the physicality of landscape while referencing the facets of time and a focus on the inner self. Time is precious and sweet yet the passage of time is infused with melancholy and a sense of loss. Time is elusive, it can be remembered but not repeated. Azzara states; "Often quiet and spare, my work speaks of landscape and keeps the viewer aware that we

are each alone. These paintings are interior universes of sorts, offering the viewer a glimpse into a brief moment within my conscience. The fleeting moment of each thought, dream or fear stops for a second, to mark it's place in time, thereby embedding itself into my memory. Each painting tries to visually capture that event."

Born in Jersey City, NJ, Francesca now resides in Westfield, NJ and Greenwich Village, NYC. She has exhibited her work extensively in the Northeast of the United States. She holds an A.A.S. degree in apparel design from the Fashion Institute of Technology in NYC and a BA in studio art from Kean University. She has experience in diverse visual disciplines including: painting, drawing, collage, apparel design and home design. She is the recipient of numerous awards, several grants and her work has been sited in many publications, including the NY Times. She has over 20 years experience teaching encaustic workshops to groups and individuals. Francesca was formerly a faculty member at the Newark Museum and New Jersey Arts Guild. She currently teaches at the New Jersey Media Center.

Paul Edward Pinkman's art is an examination of the relationship between identity and the things surrounding us. His work surfaces ideas of immediacy and intention. Starting with a personal intent, his work depicts a concept, usually through several pieces. Subsequently, he elicits how it is being understood by people viewing it, whether by means of distributed or common ideas. His works are imbued with influences of his long-term Buddhist meditation practice and his study of philosophical and analytical thought, such as that of deconstructionist, Jacques Derrida.

Pinkman states; "I'm working with materials, and largely traditional materials at that – canvas, paper, paint, ink, etc. The basis of the surface sets up limitations from the outset. If it's oil and other materials on canvas, the materials set parameters for where things will go. Each group of works starts with a concept. Nothing is tabula rasa. The act of producing, or creating, takes on a life of its own, producing a piece of art that looks like what I thought." By thinking we know what we are looking at and how to interpret its various parts, each of us as viewers, creates his works. The underlying basis for all the works from the artist's perspective is there is nothing inherent or continuous about them. They are, of course, materials. They have form, both fundamental and drawn or painted. But the resulting images are always just referential. The form changes over time. The meaning changes over time.

A lifelong resident of New Jersey, Mr. Pinkman's artwork has been in exhibitions at the Louvre in Paris, the Monmouth Museum in New Jersey, University of North Carolina, The Kinsey Institute in Indiana, as well as several galleries in New York City, Texas and other parts of the country. He lectures on the best use of social media for artists, as well as acting as an independent curator of visual arts. Currently he is a board member of the Watchung Arts Center in Watchung, NJ.

Hillside Square is located at 8 Hillside Avenue, Montclair, NJ. Originally the First Church of Christ, Scientist church, the property was converted into a Silver LEED certified professional office building and provides space for a community art gallery. Hillside Square is the recipient of the 2013 NJ Smart Growth Award for Creative Adaptive Re-Use, the 2012 Downtown NJ Excellence Gold Award for Built Projects, and the Montclair Historic Preservation Award for Excellence in Adaptive Re-Use.

The Gallery at Hillside Square is open Monday through Friday, 7:00 am - 7:00 pm. For all other information or inquiries regarding purchases, contact; Francesca Azzara, 908-309-6114, francescapaints@gmail.com or visit francescaazzara.com; or Paul Pinkman, 908-625-1571, paul@pinkmancreative.com or visit pinkmania.com.



Intervention - *Paul E. Pinkman*