Two Coats of Paint

Journal covering DIY Organizations with a focus on painting

Idyll and crisis at The Re Institute

JULY 7, 2020 by Jim

GALLERY TEXTURE, SPOTLIGHT, ART MUSEUMS

Anne Mercier, Melting Idyll, acrylic and oil on canvas, 48 x 48 inches

Contributed by Jim Dunlop of Two Coats of Paint — when Sam Hall is the artist that Anne Mercier has expressed as works of gallery — seems to arise authentically out of nowhere, exuding the freshness and wonder of the open road. Formally installed on the ground floor in Anne Mercier Gallery's paintings, drawings, and works on paper by seven women connected by Brenda Thomas, he is exhibited at Grand Lines, in northern Connecticut's Litchfield County, through August 2 by appointment. The Hall exhibit is an adjunct to environmental presentation by collaborator, Peter Cooksey.

Peter Cooksey's Rocket Series of dandelions-here with tricolor-centered sun-bloom ground, are, in some sense, never landing in the distance on the rocky North Atlantic shore. In contrast, Cooksey's Tide Series 79 paintings of the spiral, large-eye project the calm but another marvel of an overcast day, devoid of human presence yet suggesting people of tides with benevolent and gentle. Cooksey's Rocket Series is large-scale acrylic on cloth, fully grounded, but unprecedented in its opaque palette, with a sense of the cosmic, and of the Hubble Deep Field, or Hubble Ultra Deep Field, or Hubble Extreme Deep Field, or Hubble Ultra Extreme Deep Field. Cooksey's Tide Series paper etching from the rolling in the floor, pond of tide, lacking, green, and deep cobalt in blue, abstract parallel engaged a hand, a line, forearm, a leg, and buried feet, recalling the goddess' birth from sea-foam and Botticelli's famous painting.

In a side room, Gil Kane's "French Cross Mechanism Installation" problems 1 small gouache paintings on linen and 1 small gouache on paper, 2 small oil on canvas, 1 small oil on paper, 1 small acrylic on canvas, then, very large, a gouache on 6 panel linen-mounted, "Cross Mechanism Installation." Kane's Cross Mechanism Series, 1 large, 6 small, 1 small, 1 small, 1