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Susan Jane Belton

Studio Eruption: Recent Paintings

May 26th – July 5th, 2017

We are pleased to announce *Studio Eruption*, an exhibition of recent paintings by Susan Jane Belton. There will be a reception for the artist on Friday, June 2, 5 - 8 pm.

Susan Jane Belton began her investigation of coffee cups with individual portraits, isolating each object to explore the familiar forms of the mass-produced paper cups that accompany us day-to-day, and the diverse logos that brand us when we carry them. This project, spanning over a decade of Belton's career, has transformed with time and an accumulation of cups that bursts forth from the artist's studio into her new work.

Studio Eruption is the culmination of a long discourse about consumer culture that highlights its proliferation with ambitious scale and dizzying repetition. In a drastic departure from her meticulous portraits, Belton's new paintings depict an untethered swarm of the cups she had scrutinized so closely. The cups in these paintings carve their own landscapes in the aftermath of the ritualistic coffee break, sometimes without horizon or orientation. Belton deftly renders dimension, pattern, and surface with a looser hand, extending the discussion from a graphic, pop art examination of branding to a conversation about time, and the waste that amasses in our lives with each passing year. In these heaps, the specifics of each cup is obscured and at times omitted entirely. The dramatically lit, almost ominous, sea of discarded cups invites the viewer to search its chaos for something familiar.

Born in Chicago, Susan Jane Belton graduated from Colby College and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. She is the winner of grants including the Clarissa Bartlett Traveling Fellowship from the Museum of Fine Arts Boston and Massachusetts Cultural Council Painting Fellowships. Her work is in public and private collections including the Colby College Art Museum, De Cordova Museum, Duxbury Art Complex Museum, Hood Museum of Dartmouth College, M.I.T., University of Maine Museum of Art, and the Boston Public Library. Recent exhibitions include Miller Yezerski Gallery, Boston, and George Billis Gallery, New York. She is on the faculty at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University and maintains a studio in Boston's South End.

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