

# ALEXANDRE GALLERY

## *Martha Diamond: Recent Paintings*

January 7 through February 13, 2016

*Opening reception for the artist on Thursday, January 14th, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm*



Martha Diamond, *Untitled Structure*, 2014, oil on panel, 12 x 10 inches

**Alexandre Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of Martha Diamond's (American, b. 1944) recent small-scaled oil on panel paintings on view January 7 through February 13, 2016.**

In the forty-one paintings completed since 2002, **Martha Diamond** continues her rigorous and painterly exploration of the nexus between abstract and representational imagery. Recent motifs include buildings or fragments of structures as observed from her Bowery studio, domestic views, picture frames and pure abstract forms. Throughout her surfaces are rich and painterly. Her marks and paint-handling are deliberate and expressive, whether the compositions are minimal and monochromatic, or brightly colored and bold. Titles include *Blue 2*, *Church I*, *Goya Black*, *Mountains and Heights*, and *Two Philosophers*.

Writing for the accompanying exhibition catalogue the New York based painter **Alex Katz** writes:

*Starting about 2000 the paintings became smaller with more scale and concrete forms. Outer directed artists include Jeff Koons, Bacon and Warhol. She's inner directed. The work relates to Forrest Bess, Charles Burchfield and Arthur Dove. The paintings are blunt. They will eat up almost anything you put near them. It's painting that makes sense now.*

In an earlier essay that accompanied a 1990 show at Robert Miller Gallery, the poet **Bill Berkson** wrote:

*Diamond's brand of real-life abstraction reminds us that the most piquant New York realism has always made the object of its contemplations the city dweller's quick response to the immediate environs. What becomes visible with a cursory turn or lift of the head is what makes the city click into place, revealing its larger nature and dynamism.*

Martha Diamond has exhibited regularly in New York since her first one-person exhibition at Brooke Alexander in 1976. A New York native, Diamond returned to Manhattan in 1965 after graduating from Carleton College and studying French at the Sorbonne.

This marks the first exhibition of Diamond's work at the gallery. The show is accompanied by a catalogue with poem by John Godfrey and text by Alex Katz. There will be a reception for the artist on Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, from 6 to 7:30 pm. The gallery is located at 724 Fifth Avenue, between 56<sup>th</sup> and 57<sup>th</sup> Streets. Regular hours are Tuesdays through Fridays 10 to 5:30 pm and Saturdays 11 to 5 pm.