

Andrew Kreps
Gallery

394 Broadway
New York, NY 10013

Tue–Sat, 10 am–6 pm
andrewkreps.com

Tel. (212)741-8849
Fax. (212)741-8163

Sylvia Snowden Green Paintings

May 13 –June 18, 2022

Opening Reception and Book Launch

Friday, May 13, 5 - 7 pm

“I see things in other people that are reflected in me” - Sylvia Snowden as quoted in Alice Thorson’s essay *Engaging Expression*.

Andrew Kreps Gallery is pleased to announce *Green Paintings*, an exhibition of recent works by Sylvia Snowden (b. 1942 Raleigh, NC), organized in collaboration with Franklin Parrasch Gallery, New York. The exhibition coincides with the publication of *Sylvia Snowden: M Street*, a new monograph published by American Art Catalogues that includes essays by curator Gavin Delahunty and art historian Rebecca VanDiver, and a lively conversation between Sylvia Snowden and Nathaniel Mary Quinn.

Sylvia Snowden has developed a singular body of work spanning six decades, which is characterized by a visceral and sculptural application of paint in which color and texture emerge from densely-worked underlayers. Working in series, Snowden’s work aims to depict the struggles and triumphs of humanity and dispel the societal myths that are used to push us apart. Most notable is Snowden’s *M Street* Series started in the late 70s after Snowden moved to Washington’s Shaw Neighborhood, where she still resides, which was marked by impending dislocation due to gentrification. Snowden aimed to portray the people she encountered within the neighborhood, many of whom were transient, unemployed, and/or unhoused, depicting each with their own individual grace and dignity. Pushing against the bounds of the paintings’ frames, Snowden’s figures seem to urgently wrestle with the energetic abstractions that surround them, as a way to depict their resilience in the face of adversity.

Snowden’s recent series *Green Paintings*, which comprises the exhibition at 394 Broadway, demonstrates her ongoing belief in the potency of abstraction. Here, a thick impasto of acrylic, buttressed by plastic sheeting and other materials bears traces of the wide array of Snowden’s gestures - from brushes and palette knives. Within these energetic compositions, masses of saturated chemical color build on top of one another, suggesting ongoing movement. Throughout, Snowden displays a commitment to grappling with the process of translating creative energy into physical form, while leaving visible the traces of the works’ making.

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Sylvia Snowden holds both Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from Howard University, Washington, D.C. where she studied under James Porter, Lois Maillou Jones, James Wells, and David C. Driskell. She received a scholarship to Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, ME, and has a certificate from Académie de la Grande Chaumière, Paris, France. Snowden has taught at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, Howard University (Washington, D.C.), and Yale University, New Haven, CT, and has served as an artist-in-residence, a panelist, visiting artist, lecturer/instructor, and curator in universities, galleries, and art schools in the United States and internationally. In 2021, Snowden had solo exhibitions at Franklin Parrasch Gallery, New York, and Parrasch Heijnen, Los Angeles. In 2018, Snowden's work was notably featured in the landmark exhibition *Magnetic Fields: Expanding American Abstraction, 1960-Today* at the National Museum for Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C. alongside fellow Howard University alumnae Mildred Thompson, Alma Thomas, and Mary Lovelace O'Neal. Snowden has also exhibited at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, NJ; Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD; Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY; The Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.; Heckscher Museum of Art, Huntington, NY; and the National Archives for Black Women's History (NABWH) of the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site (MAMC), Washington, D.C.

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SYLVIA SNOWDEN
Green II, 2020

Acrylic on canvas
72 x 48 inches
(182.9 x 121.9 cm.)
(SYS22-002)



SYLVIA SNOWDEN
Green V, 2021

Acrylic on canvas
108 x 48 inches
(274.3 x 121.9 cm.)
(SYS22-005)



SYLVIA SNOWDEN
Green I, 2019

Acrylic on canvas
96 x 48 inches (243.8 x 121.9
cm.)
(SYS22-001)

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Sylvia Snowden

BORN 1942, RALEIGH, NC
LIVES AND WORKS IN WASHINGTON, DC

EDUCATION

1965 MFA, Howard University, Washington, DC
1964 Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, ME
1963 BA, Howard University, Washington, DC
Certificate, La Grande Chaumier, Paris, FR

SELECT SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 Sylvia Snowden: Select Works, 1966 - 2020, Parrasch Heijnen, Los Angeles, CA
Sylvia Snowden: The M Street Series, Franklin Parrasch Gallery, New York, NY
- 2016 Sylvia Snowden: The Feel of Paint, American University Museum, Washington, D.C. (November 12- December 18)
- 2007 Sylvia Snowden: Flowers, Norman Parish Gallery, Washington, D.C. (September 21-October 16) 2006 Sylvia Snowden: Venus of M Street, Norman Parish Gallery, Washington, D.C. (September 15- October 17)
- 2005 Sylvia Snowden: Jessie's Shields, Parish Gallery, Washington, D.C. (September 16-October 18) 2000 Sylvia Snowden: Malik, Farewell 'til We Meet Again, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. (September 1–October 23)
- 1997 Works by Sylvia Snowden, Terrance De Vaux, Paradise Island, Nassau, Bahamas Sense of Place, Fannie Mae American Communities Fund, Washington, D.C.
- 1995 Sylvia Snowden: Portraits of Frances, Addison/Ripley Fine Art, Washington, D.C. 1993 Sylvia Snowden: The Burns Series, Zenith Gallery, Washington, D.C.
Sylvia Snowden: New Paintings, Stephanie Ann Robev Gallery, Frostburg State University, Frostburg, MD
- 1992 Sylvia Snowden, The National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C. New Abstractions, Emerson Gallery, McLean, VA

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- 1989 Sylvia Snowden/Painting '89, Ipomal Galerie, Netherlands
Paintings by Sylvia Snowden, M. Hanks Gallery, Santa Monica, CA
1987 Large Works on Paper, Brody's Gallery, Washington, D.C.
1985 Painting and Works on Paper, Brody's Gallery, Washington, D.C.

SELECT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 Women Artists: 1950 - Now, The Elkon Gallery, New York, NY
2020 Nasty Women, Gavlak Gallery, Los Angeles, CA (October
31-December 12) 2019 American Art, 1900 – 1950: The Evans-
Tibbs Collection, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, cur. Michelle
Grabner, Common Street Arts, Waterville, ME
2017 Magnetic Fields; Expanding American Abstraction, 1960s to
Today, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO
(June 8-September 17)
traveled to: National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington,
D.C. (October 13-January 21)
2016 Circle of Friends, American University Museum's Alper Initiative
for Washington Art, Washington, D.C. (January 23-March 13)
2015 Inside/Outside: Works from the Skowhegan Archives, cur.
Michelle Grabner, Common Streets Arts, Waterville, ME
2014 Slide-Invitational, Freedom in Mississippi Series, Mississippi
Museum of Art, Jackson, MS 2013 Washington Art Matters:
1940s–1980s, cur. Jack Rasmussen, American University Museum
at the Katzen Arts Center, Washington, D.C.
2011 Artistic Reflections: David C. Driskell, Jeremy Austin, Starmanda
Bullock, Sylvia Snowden, Brentwood Arts Exchange, Brentwood,
MD
Living Embodiments: Artistic Expressions of Being – 20th
Anniversary Exhibition, Norman Parish Gallery, Washington,
D.C. (June 17-July 12)
2010 Go America, Ipomal Galerie en Kunstuitleen, Landgraaf, NL
(March 28-April 25) Catalyst, American University Museum at the
Katzen Arts Center, Washington, D.C. (November 9- December
19)
2008 Something to Look Forward To, Morris Museum of Art, Augusta,
GA (March 22-May 25) catalogue Something to Look Forward
To, Robeson Gallery, Penn State University, University Park, PA
(September 25-December 4) catalogue
Invitational Group Exhibition, Curated by Lisa Boylis Ashby, Flint
Institute of Arts, Flint, MI 2007 Invitational Group Exhibition,
Curated by Denise Newsome, Museum of Texas Tech University,
Lubbock, TX
2006 Living Embodiments: Artistic Expressions of Being FIFTEEN,
Parish Gallery, Washington, D.C. (June 16-July 18)

- Something to Look Forward To, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS (February 5-April 2) catalogue
- Embrace: The Fine Art Fair of the National Black Arts Festival, Mason Murer Fine Arts, Atlanta, GA Something to Look Forward To, California African-American Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA catalogue
- 2005 Something to Look Forward To, The Heckscher Museum of Art, Huntington, NY (June 2-August 14) catalogue
- 2004 Something to Look Forward To, Phillips Museum of Art at Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, PA (March 26-June 27) catalogue
- 2003 Black is a Color: African-American Art at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
- 1997 Sense of Place, Fannie Mae American Communities Fund, Washington, D.C. 1996 Evans-Tibbs Collection, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
- Passionate Pursuits: Hidden Treasures of the Garden State, The Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, NJ (September 29-January 5, 1997)
- 1995 Lois and her Students, An American Legacy: Seven Decades of American Art, 1930-1995, Fondo del Sol Art Center, Washington, D.C. (November 3-January 12, 1996)
- Baltimore Contemporary Print Fair, The Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD
- African American Women Prints: Camille Billops, Selma Burke, Elizabeth Catlett-Mora, Lois Mailou Jones, Gwen Knight Lawrence, Samella Lewis, Howardena Pindell, Alison Saar, Betye Saar, Sylvia Snowden, Pat Ward-Williams, Shirley Woodson, Parish Gallery, Washington, D.C. (February 3-March 14)
- Abstract in Black, School 33 Art Center, Baltimore, MD
- Black Art, cur. Manon Cleary, Rockville Arts Place, Rockville, MD
- 1994 17th Anniversary Exhibition, Zenith Gallery, Washington, D.C.
- Off the Mall 2, cur. Jack Cowart, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Art in Embassies Program, American Embassy, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 1992 Faculty Exhibition, Yale University Gallery, Norfolk, CT
- African American Women Artists, Colgate-Palmolive Company, New York, NY
- 1991 17 Artistas Latino y Afro Americanos en USA, Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Santiago, Chile Works of Distinction, Selected Donations and Loans, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C.
- Cornell University Department of Art Faculty Exhibition, Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Ithaca, NY
- Visiting Artist Program: 20th Anniversary Show, University of Colorado Art Galleries, Boulder, CO Spirit Materials, Emerson Gallery, McLean, VA

- 1990 Introspectives: Contemporary Art by Americans and Brazilians of African Descent, The Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York, NY
Gathered Visions: Selected Works by African American Women Artists, Anacostia Museum, Washington, D.C.
New Abstract Paintings, Middendorf Gallery, Washington, D.C.
A View from Baltimore to Washington, Fine Arts Gallery
University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD Art and Conscience, The Dadian Gallery, Washington, D.C.
Black Maryland Women in the Arts, Liberty Campus Art Gallery, Community College of Baltimore, Baltimore, MD
Art Against Aids, Gallery 406, Washington, D.C.
- 1989 Contemporary African American Art, Museo Civico D'Arte
Contemperanea Di Gillelina, Sicily, Italy Introspectives:
Contemporary Art by American and Brazilian Artists of African Descent, California Afro-American Museum, Los Angeles, CA
African-American Artists, 1880-1987: Selections from the Evans-Tibbs Collection, Smithsonian Institution (traveling exhibition – more than twenty venues) (January 1989-November 1992) catalogue
- 1988 Secrets, Gallery 10 Ltd., Washington, D.C.
An Art Exhibit in Celebration of Black History Month, Mayor's Mini Gallery, Washington, D.C. 1987 The Art of Black America in Japan, International Cultural Exchange Association, Shintomi, Chuo-Ku, Tokyo, Japan
Works on Paper by Washington Artists, Jane Haslem Gallery, Washington, D.C.
Themes and Variations: Primitivism, Artscape '87, Baltimore, MD
Two Black Women Painters, South Shore Bank, Chicago, IL
Black Women Artists, 1987, The Museum of the National Center of the Afro-American Artists, Inc. Boston, MA
Afro-American Art, Now, The George Washington University, Washington, D.C.
- 1986 Live Auction, Curated by Jock Reynolds, Washington Projects for the Arts, Washington, D.C. Drawing, Brody's Gallery, Washington, D.C.
Myth and Ritual, Touchstone Gallery, Washington, D.C.
Let the Art be First, Washington Women's Art Center, Washington, D.C.
Choosing: An Exhibit of Changing Perspectives in Modern Art and Art Criticism by Black Americans 1925-1985, cur. Jacqueline Bontemps
Black Women Visual Artists in Washington, D.C., Bethune Museum, Washington, D.C. 1985 D.C. Content, Art Barn, Washington, D.C.
All Washington Show, Zinnia, Washington, D.C.
Paintings for ARTS D.C. ad., Rep. Ron Dellums, WTTG-Channel 5, Washington, D.C. Corcoran Auction, Juried, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

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1983 Washington Projects for the Arts Auction, Invitational, Curated by Sam Gilliam, Suzanne Codi, Washington, D.C.
Afro and Latin American Women, Roadwork Inc, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. Artist's Auction, Invitational, George Koch, A. Salon, Ltd., Washington, D.C.
Vision of the Spiritual Dimension, Juried, Christ Congregational Church, Silver Spring, MD

AWARDS

2019 Lifetime Achievement Award, James A. Porter Colloquium, Howard University, Washington, D.C.

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.