

Robert Bordo, Andreas Eriksson, Marina Rheingantz, Christine Safa, Anh Trần
Some Landscapes
10 Mar – 4 May 2022
The Upstairs at 39 Walker

Some Landscapes brings together works by a group of five international artists. The exhibition includes new paintings by Robert Bordo, Andreas Eriksson, Marina Rheingantz, Christine Safa, and Anh Trần.

The natural world, in its blending of the material and immaterial, was an early and rich source for abstraction. Helen Frankenthaler commented on nature's instinctive transformation into painting: "Anything that has beauty and provides order (rather than chaos or shock value) can be resolved in a picture (as in nature) and gives pleasure – a sense of rightness, as in being one in nature."¹ Culling from the long tradition of abstract landscape painting, shaped and morphed by a variety of geographies and the tendencies they reveal, the artists in this exhibition each push the constraints of an ever changing and continuously generative genre.

Christine Safa and Robert Bordo contend with the translation of a site crystalized into memory, as evidence of a life in motion. Bordo, born in Canada and working in Hudson, New York, borrows from both places' longstanding landscape painting traditions, reveling in the dialogue between past and present. Safa, an artist living in France and often returning to her family's home country of Lebanon, likewise is informed by a geographic specificity held at a distance, in this case reflected against and between the Mediterranean Sea.

Patterning can suggest the repetition and differences found in nature. In Marina Rheingantz's paintings, tapestry and Brazil's history of the genre offer a background for her landscapes punctuated by impasto bush strokes over voluminous swathes of color. The *Sebipiruna*, titularly and abstractly depicted, is an ornamental Brazilian tree whose flowers attract an array of birds, which in turn disperse its seeds. Andreas Eriksson's paintings similarly offer a window onto the world as a patchwork of subtle and loose colors coalescing into organic forms. The Swedish painter's studio, situated in the forest on the edge of a lake, is the screen through which he observes the subtleties of nature's phenomena, firming them into elegant and formal compositions.

Abstract Expressionism's long shadow is the eave under which Anh Trần paints. Its twinned history as both formidable radical invention in painting and American postwar political vehicle is studied in relation to the artist's Vietnamese heritage. Like many Abstract Expressionists before her, Trần paints horizontally, a quasi-topographic physical assertion over the picture plane that doubles as performance.

¹ Frankenthaler, Helen. Quoted in "As In Nature: Helen Frankenthaler Paintings" (press release), The Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, MA, 2017, via the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation.

Artist Biographies

Robert Bordo (b. 1949, Montreal, Canada) lives and works in New York. Bordo was an Associate Professor of Art at The Cooper Union, New York, where he led the painting program from 1996 until 2017. His work has been featured in exhibitions at MoMA PS1; the Brooklyn Museum; the Museum für Gegenwartskunst in Basel; Artists Space, New York; and the Drawing Center. His work is held in the collections of SFMoMA, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Hammer Museum, and the Blanton Museum of Art among others.

Andreas Eriksson (b. 1975, Björsäter, Sweden) lives and works in Lidköping, Sweden. Notable solo exhibitions include venues such as Skissernas Museum, Lund, Sweden (2021) & 2017); Nordic Watercolor Museum, Tjörn, Sweden (2020); Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden; Trondheim Kunstmuseum, Norway; Reykjavik Art Museum, Iceland (2015); and MUMOK, Vienna, Austria (2008). His work was included in the 30th São Paulo Biennial, São Paulo (2012) and The Nordic Pavilion, 54th Venice Biennale in 2011.

Marina Rheingantz (b. 1983, Araraquara, Brazil) lives and works in São Paulo. In 2021, Rheingantz had a solo exhibition at FRAC Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, France. Her work was included in noteworthy recent group shows at KUNSTHAL KAdE, Amersfoort, The Netherlands (2022); MAR – Museu de Arte do Rio, Brazil (2020); and Estação Pinacoteca, São Paulo, Brazil (2018). Her work is found in public collections such as the Dallas Museum of Art, Texas; Instituto Inhotim, Brumadinho, Brazil; MAM – Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Museum Voorlinden, Wassenaar, Netherlands, and The Rubell Family Collection, Miami, Florida.

Christine Safa (b. 1994, Le Chesnay, France) lives and works in Paris. She received the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts Diploma. In 2021 she was invited by Etel Adnan to participate in a group exhibition at Levy Gorvy Gallery in Paris. In 2022 she had her first institutional solo exhibition at ICA Milan, Italy. In May 2023, she will have a solo exhibition with Galerie Lelong, Paris.

Anh Trần (1989, Bến Tre, Vietnam) lives and works between Auckland, New Zealand and Amsterdam, Netherlands. From 2021-2022, Trần was a resident at the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam. She has exhibited at 8th Biennale of Painting, Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens, Deurle, Belgium (2022); Galerie Fons Welters, Amsterdam (2022); Artspace Aotearoa, Auckland (2019); Window gallery, Auckland (2017), among others. Earlier this year, Trần participated in 58th Carnegie International, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA, curated by Sohrab Mohebbi.