

The Unusual Suspects
A View of Abstraction
Curated by Richard Kalina
June 13 – August 9, 2019

Paolo Arao
Samantha Bittman
Amie Cunat
Angela Heisch
Federico Herrero
Shirley Jaffe
Valerie Jaudon
Shirley Kaneda
Harriet Korman
Jonathan Lasker
Carrie Moyer
Thomas Nozkowski
Odili Donald Odita
Brian O'Doherty
Joanna Pousette-Dart
Katia Santibañez
David Storey
Barbara Takenaga
Kevin Umaña
Stanley Whitney
Jack Youngerman



Odili Donald Odita, *Stand*, 2018. Acrylic on canvas, 60 x 42 x 1 ¼ inches.

DC Moore Gallery is proud to present *The Unusual Suspects: A View of Abstraction*, curated by Richard Kalina, and featuring work by twenty-one artists. Opening Reception Thursday, June 13th, 6-8pm

A panel discussion moderated by Richard Kalina, with artists Paolo Arao, Amie Cunat, Carrie Moyer, and Odili Donald Odita will take place at DC Moore Gallery on Thursday, June 20th at 6:30pm.

Richard Kalina Statement:

The Unusual Suspects: A View of Abstraction examines some key elements of today's abstract painting. While scarcely an atlas, it does provide a way to look at the current state of affairs. The typical 20th century process of movement formation stopped (especially for painting and doubly so for abstraction) in the late 1980s or at the latest, the early 1990s. Yet all the while, painting continued unabated. The art in this show, made by painters ranging in age from their 30s to their 90s, does not fit neatly into sets of fixed categories, but rather organizes itself around related points and orientations on the larger map of abstraction – in this case an interest in color, logical organization, careful facture, and indirect but compelling social and

theoretical reference. In the convention-encompassed precincts of painting, the continually expanding body of work coming into the world will, by its nature, seek and find places to settle. In doing so, the accepted distance between points on the spectrum of style will be altered and new affinities and correspondences revealed. This creates an interconnected map rather than a logical flow chart, a shifting network rather than an Alfred Barr-like diagram of originality and influence. Such an ordering is not only non-hierarchical and non-linear, but in a metaphorical way, non-planar. It is like a loose grid inscribed on a sheet of paper, rendered three-dimensional as the paper is turned and twisted.

If there is no such thing as mainstream abstraction anymore, if the conceptual space between painters is a constantly shifting set of measurements, if criticism and theory in abstract art cannot be prescriptive, then how can we identify in the present moment, what is of real interest? The artists in this exhibition are often seen as “artists’ artists,” exemplars of thought-provoking conjunctions and approaches, aesthetic first responders. The purpose of this show is to illuminate a sector of the moving web of art, to present a group of painters who reflect the aesthetic light around them in unexpected and exciting ways. The paintings of women and men of different backgrounds and, importantly, of different ages, each with different goals and different means of attaining them, are being placed together so that every work of art will both stand on its own and be given meaning by the works around it. The paintings on display are fully formed and complex, as well as carefully and skillfully made. They represent what might be thought of as an Industrious Revolution. They are a synchronic snapshot of a significant portion of abstract art today, a still image of a moving map. In the lively and uncertain art world that we inhabit, and especially in the bounded, bracketed, but expanding zone of abstraction, the energy that we see here creates its own form.

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Richard Kalina is a New York-based painter and critic and is a professor of art at Fordham University. He has written *for Art in America*, *ARTnews*, *Hyperallergic*, and *The Brooklyn Rail*, among other publications. He is the author of *Imagining the Present: Context, Content, and the Role of the Critic*, published by Routledge Press (2006).

Abstraction: Wrong Questions, Right Answers?

Panel Discussion with Paola Arao, Amie Cunat, Carrie Moyer, and Odili Donald Odita

Moderated by Richard Kalina

Thursday, June 20th at 6:30pm

RSVP to Sabeena Khosla at skhosla@dcmooregallery.com

DC Moore Gallery specializes in contemporary and twentieth-century art. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10am-6pm. For more information, photographs, or to arrange a viewing please call 212-247-2111 or email Sabeena Khosla at skhosla@dcmooregallery.com.