

# THE JAM

and additional works...



steven harvey fine art projects

August 2012





**mural:**  
Andrea Bergart and Matt Phillips  
Ditzydos, 2012  
Silica and Pigment with Sumi Ink  
dimensions variable

# The Jam

Andrea Bergart Peter LaBier  
Meghan Brady Janice Nowinski  
Color War Matt Phillips  
Tara Geer Kyle Staver

back gallery: Alfred Jensen

“It’s a F.U.N.K. Box...a F.U.N.K. box.”  
– The Jam- Graham Central Station

Steven Harvey Fine Art Projects presents The Jam, a group installation, featuring works by seven artists: Andrea Bergart, Matt Phillips, Meghan Brady, Tara Geer, Peter LaBier, Kyle Staver and Janice Nowinski. The exhibition draws its name from a famous breakbeat hit by 70s funk outfit Graham Central Station.

The Jam is designed as a total painted environment. A mural by Andrea Bergart and Matt Phillips, and a sound component by the chill-wave band Color set the stage for an eclectic mixture: half DIY geometric abstraction and half figurative painting and works on paper.

This exhibition expands on SHFAP’s installation “Meta-Decorative” for the Scope Art Fair 2012 – where Andrea Bergart designed a geometric mural for the walls of the booth, inspired by Pendleton patterns, which was in turn hung with contemporary paintings, works on paper and textiles that connected to a home-grown geometric tradition. Less homogeneous in its vision, The Jam creates a syncopated space, like a free-ranging jam session. While some of the works in the show harmonize with the painted decorative environment, others representational works form a kind of earthly second line

Included in the mix of paintings, drawings, mural and music are representatives of several traditions. Andrea Bergart, Matt Phillips and Meghan Brady all share an affinity for funky DIY abstraction that draws upon decorative traditions. Bergart’s vibrant paintings are infused with an energetic rhythm that is reminiscent of West African textiles. Matt Phillips paints boldly colorful abstractions as well, yet his geometry retains a softness more related to Gees Bend style quilting. Both are active in the Brooklyn pop-up art scene. Phillips has also previously collaborated with Meghan Brady, whose abstract images combine underlying geometric structure with spontaneous whimsy. All three artists previously studied at Boston University.

Tara Geer and Peter LaBier both dig into drawing as a medium: Geer exclusively and LaBier to great effect. Geer’s large-scale charcoal drawings recall Cy Twombly and Joan Mitchell. Geer does not draw nameable things, but rather gets so close to her subjects that they become abstract. Whether rendering frayed sock or a bus depot, Geer gives voice to the beauty and complexity in the commonplace and small. She also teaches drawing (both in classes and individually, as she does with the filmmaker Andre Gregory); Geer will hold a drawing workshop in the gallery on Friday August 3rd at 2pm. Like Geer, LaBier pays careful attention to the every day. His colored ink drawings of flower bunches have a wiry, virtuosic thicket-like density of line. LaBier is also the frontman for the darkwave band Pychobuildings.

Close friends and figurative painters, Kyle Staver and Janice Nowinski make work in direct conversation with the history of painting. Staver’s playful, figurative compositions evoke the painterly qualities of Matisse, Bonnard and David Park while they often take their compositional underpinnings from earlier masters. Her image of a boy on a rope swing in a dark wood reads like a mix of Dana Schutz and Elie Nadelman, simultaneously personal, humorous and mythic. Janice Nowinski’s feel for paint is reminiscent of Edouard Manet and the Bay Area group. Her paintings have a self-aware wit that can be seen in her transcriptions of historical works. “Recumbent III,” her transcription of Boucher’s reclining nude (included here) was a pivotal painting for her: “I came across the odalisque by Boucher...all of a sudden I realized what was missing from my work: a sense of humor and also the possibility that sex could be a great painting subject for me.”

Like two sides of a 45rpm single dividing a long song into two parts, The Jam is the extended funky breakdown section that follows the more conventional stating of song themes on side 1 stated by the Meta-Decorative at Scope. The Jam creates a dense multi-layered funky space that layers painting and drawing over painting.

Simultaneously with The Jam, SHFAP presents in the rear gallery a single important 1959 work by the American Abstract painter Alfred Jensen (1903-1981.) The painting dating from the period of Jensen’s investigation into the Spanish Renaissance forsakes the artists alternating black and white checkerboards for diagonal patterning derived from Moorish geometric motifs.

steven harvey fine art projects, 208 Forsyth Street  
hrs: weds – fri 12 – 6 and by appointment  
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Andrea Bergart  
Rapture, 2011  
oil on canvas, 16 x 16 in



Andrea Bergart  
Double V, 2012  
crayon and acrylic on paper mounted on panel, 14 x 17 in



Meghan Brady  
Untitled, 2012  
oil on canvas, 48 x 44





**sounds:**

COLOR WAR ( Lindsay Mound  
and Justin William Lin)

Randomizer 8:53

We Are The Night 8:54

Some Velvet 4:13

Chromeward Bound 10:00

Great Mexpectations 5:00

Hallways 5:57

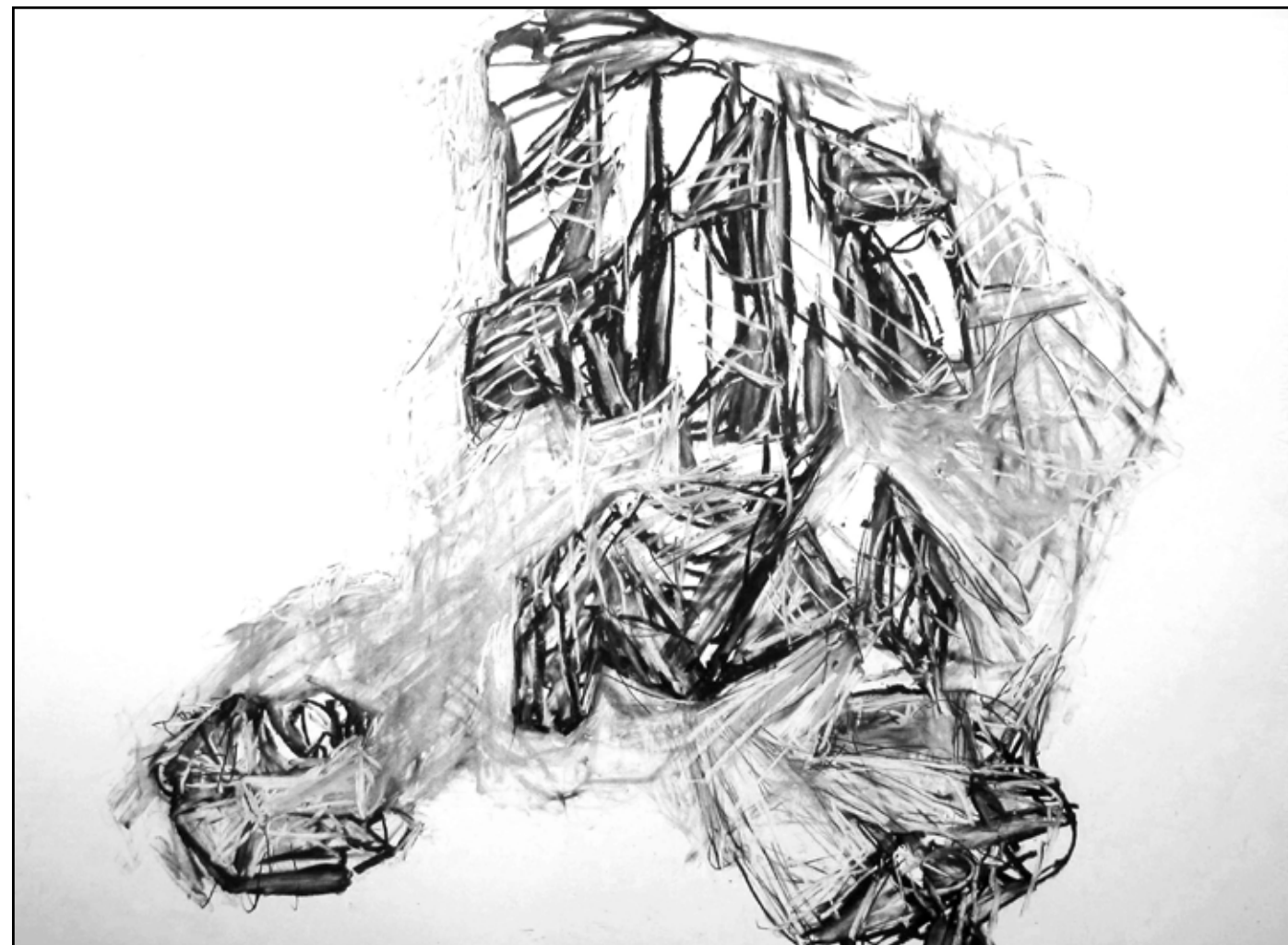
Jagoo 6:05

Kaaterskill Falls 3:04





Tara Geer  
Outcropping, 2012  
mixed media on paper, 22 x 30 in



Tara Geer  
Galleon, 2012  
mixed media on paper, 22 x 30 in



Peter LaBier  
Blue Flowers, 2011  
ink on paper, 22 x 30 in



Peter LaBier  
Flowers, 2011  
ink on paper, 28 3/8 x 22 1/2 in



Janice Nowinski  
Recumbent I, 2001  
oil on linen, 20 x 24 in







Matt Phillips  
Fish Out of Water, 2012  
oil on canvas over panel, 24 x 20 in



Matt Phillips  
Untitled, 2012  
oil on canvas over panel, 30 x 24 in



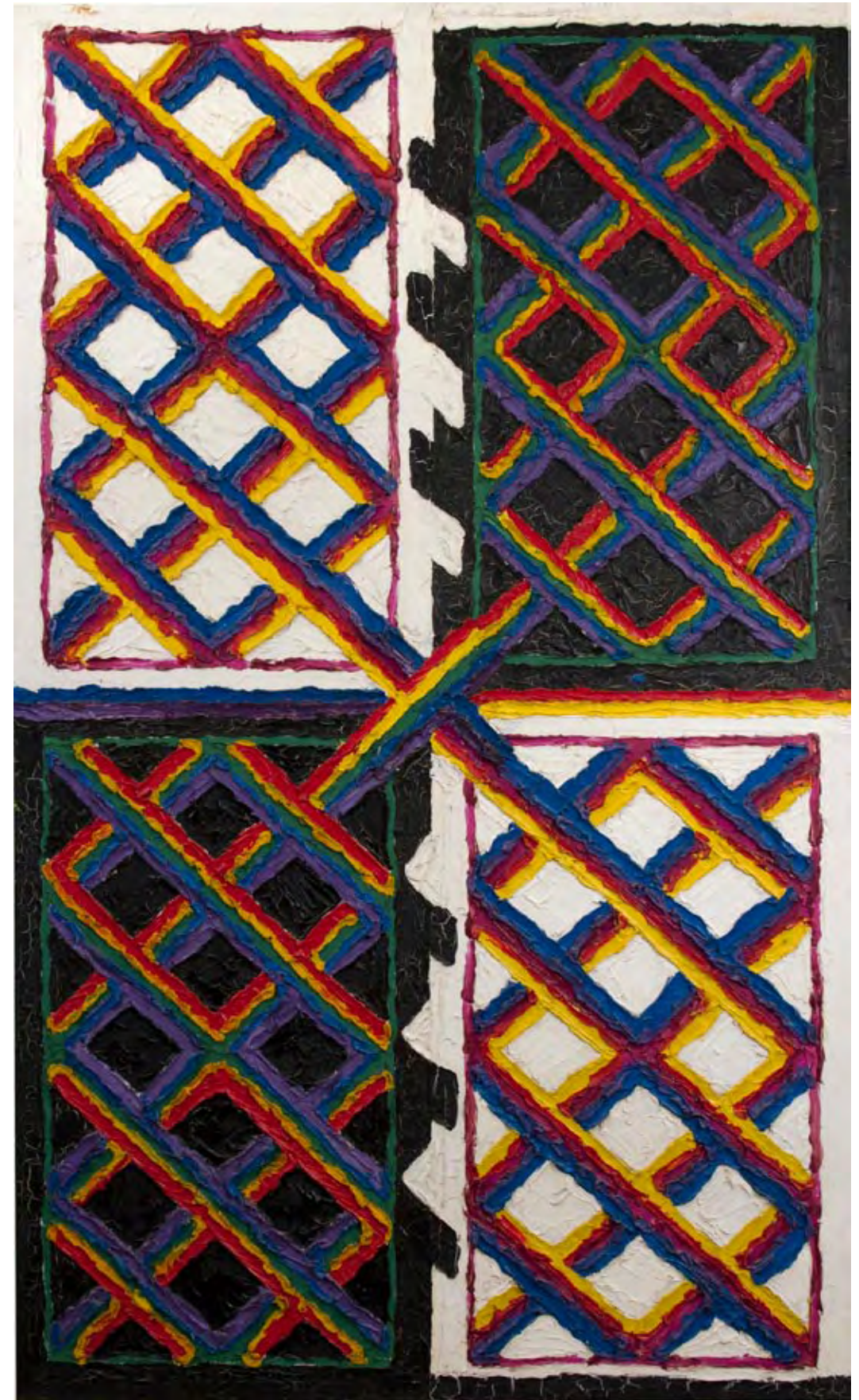


Kyle Staver  
The Boys of Pinetop Pond, 2011  
oil on canvas, 70 x 50 in





Alfred Jensen (1903-1981)  
Quadri, 1959  
oil on canvas, 50 x 30 in





Cindy Tower  
Mouse Trap study, East St Louis , IL , Armour Factory, 2010  
oil on fabric, 28 x 47"



Eleanor Ray  
2 Paintings, 2012  
oil on panel, 8 x 10 in







Gideon Bok  
Rolling Stones: Some Girls, 2012  
oil on mdf panel, 12 1/4 x 12 1/4 in



Gideon Bok  
Joanna Newsom: Have One On Me, 2012  
oil on mdf panel, 12 1/4 x 12 1/4 in



Gideon Bok  
Bats for Lashes: Two Suns, 2012  
oil on mdf panel, 12 1/4 x 12 1/4 in



Gideon Bok  
Rolling Stones: Sticky Fingers, 2012  
oil on mdf panel, 12 1/4 x 12 1/4 in









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