

ART & DESIGN | ART REVIEW

Dana DeGiulio and Molly Zuckerman-Hartung Make an Emphatic Statement in ‘Queen’

By MARTHA SCHWENDENER JAN. 21, 2016

Two painters, long based in Chicago, have moved to New York, and “Queen,” their joint exhibition at Lyles & King, is a dramatic statement signaling their arrival. This is Dana DeGiulio’s first show in New York; Molly Zuckerman-Hartung, who was in the last Whitney Biennial, had a solo here in 2011. For both, however, this is a notable group of works.

Ms. DeGiulio’s paintings take a simple trope, the floral still life, and remake it into a black-and-white postpunk-type affair. Call it Manet for the millennium, after his late flower paintings. There are more naked stems than blooms, and the flowers look as if they were recovered from the trash after a lovers’ quarrel or placed on an autopsy table for examination. Sentiment and sentimentality are erased. Accompanying these works is “Pool” (2011), a silver painting on canvas, made with spray paint and enamel, which functions, just as its title suggests, as a banal puddle. The show also has several black, near-monochrome paintings of vessels.

If Ms. DeGiulio’s art plays it cool, Ms. Zuckerman-Hartung’s work is a firestorm of techniques and effects: bleaching, dyeing, staining and sewing linen, silk and humble dropcloths. “Enigma-Riddle-Joke” (2015) incorporates

a cutout photograph of a rocket launch, bits of text and the paperback cover of “The Essential Lenny Bruce.” At the entrance, “What Are Years” (2015) has stained, scrawled homages to other artist-heroes, like Joseph Beuys and Sigmar Polke.

Both women favor punchy, evocative titles. Ms. DeGiulio’s include “Fresh Hell” and “Pina Bausch,” after the groundbreaking choreographer; among Ms. Zuckerman-Hartung’s are “Gimme Shelter” and “Dirty Window.” You could scrutinize these titles and other references in their works, considering the “window” as a historical motif in painting, or analyzing the fluid play of gender in their citations. The clear message: Everything matters. Marks matter, titles matter and gestures matter.

Dana DeGiulio Molly Zuckerman-Hartung

‘Queen’

Lyles & King

106 Forsyth Street, at Broome Street, Lower East Side

Through Feb. 7

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