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Claudia Carballada MFA Thesis Statement

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Peggy Phelps Gallery
Claremont Graduate University
February 7th - 11th, 2011

Claudia Carballada *Masters in Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition*

Final Review Tuesday, February 8th, 2011

Committee Members:

David Amico - Chair

John Millei

Carmine Innaccone

The paintings presented in this exhibition are physical structures inhabited by abstract ideas. Visually, they are the two-dimensional embodiment of three-dimensional space. My hope is to move viewers beyond the physical object to experience infinite space internally. My paintings prompt viewers to consider their various connections to both the tangible world that surrounds them and the lyrical world within.

Duality is integral; expansion and contraction play off each other. The paintings are ethereal and airy, yet also earthly. The marks left by gestures form the foundation of the work. Their sense of movement is essential: it is an extension of thought or feeling. The marks and their scale can be thought of as a record of the body that made them. Intuitive movement guides the gesture. In this way, it's similar to dance. The forms evoke boundless space and spirited movement through them, as well as a sense of ephemerality, delicacy, and vulnerability. Both imagery and materials allude to something that is momentary and could easily disappear, like vapor. This infuses my works with mystery. Their transparent veils of color enhance this ephemeral quality, sometimes evoking passageways. Layered imagery further suggests spaces and entities beyond the visible surface. These elements reside in the mind of the viewer, perhaps with a sense of wonder and possibility. The otherworldly spaces that open within these paintings invite viewers to inhabit them, to experience subtle perceptual shifts and emerge newly aligned with the world around them.

Claudia Carballada
February, 2011

Master of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition
Peggy Phelps Gallery at Claremont Graduate University