

David Findlay EST 1870

DAVID FINDLAY GALLERIES INC 984 MADISON AT 77TH NEW YORK 10021 212-249-2909

The David Findlay Galleries is pleased to announce ***through the looking glass***, an exhibition of recent abstract paintings by New York artist Nina Meledandri. This exhibition, comprised of three interconnected series, will be the artist's second solo exhibition at the gallery. Over the past two years Meledandri has explored her process in terms of the physicality of paint and how that reflects in the quality of energy required to make work that ranges from small to large. It has been a wonderfully intensive period for her, involving a full gamut of emotions. For the artist, this entire range is essential for the achievement of the finished product and each component of the process is valued equally.

The smallest paintings in the show are part of an on going series of 8 x 8" wood panels that continue Meledandri's romance with small work; work that can be characterized by a celebration of color and a spirit of play and discovery. The artist thinks of this series (entitled ***random thoughts***) as a form of visual magnetic poetry, where the viewer is encouraged to create their own combinations of paintings. Over the course of the last two years, these small works have served as a means for unleashing and then capturing energy. They became preparations or, as the artist puts it, a method by which she would "sneak up" to the larger work in which sudden shifts were allowed to occur that would totally transform the canvas.

While it is customary for Meledandri to make both small and large work, the series ***mappings*** (26" x 29") represent an interim size, one that was required by the process she had embarked on. These paintings were used as a transition state between the large and small work; a "bridge" over which the energy could flow from one size to the next. They are characterized by the structural grid like elements found in many of her large pieces, coupled with the more playful and spontaneous approach to color and form of the smaller.

The largest paintings in the show represent an ongoing series inspired by the murals of the Villa of Mysteries in Pompeii. The Jungians have interpreted these panels as a visual representation of the process of female individuation of the psyche and this ancient site along with the writings about it have long provided vital source material for the artist. This body of work (***the initiation series***) is an open ended project consisting of groupings of ten paintings each. Presented here will be the two series: ***villa of mysteries*** and ***another door***. This work deals unabashedly with what the artist refers to as "her love affair with paint". Meledandri's last exhibition (***the color within***) relied primarily on color as a motivating element. This current work is more concerned with the pushing, pulling, dripping, scraping, gouging of paint. In essence the artist strove to create a dialogue with the paint which slowly evolved into a relationship of trust. Although viewers can never become completely aware of this internal process, they are able to sympathize with it through their own imaginations because of the power of Meledandri's art to evoke a sense of mystery, delight and wonder in the viewer. Great visual beauty and masterful command of her medium are what differentiate these works from a mere subjective process.

through the looking glass runs from April 2 - 23, 2005. It is composed of approximately twenty-five paintings on canvas, the majority of which are a combination of oil, wax medium and graphite. A special evening reception to honor Nina Meledandri will take place on Friday, April 1st from 5 to 7 pm at the David Findlay Galleries at 984 Madison Avenue (at 77th Street). The artist will be present at this reception.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
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Gallery Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 10-5 PM

for further information on the artist please visit: <http://www.meledandri.com>