

THE DRAWING ROOM 55 Main Street East Hampton New York 11937 T 631 324 5016

PRESS RELEASE

SUE HEATLEY Southern Exposure

April 21 – May 25, 2020



Oculus, 2020, 8 3/8 x 6 1/2 in.



Solstice, 2020, 30 x 22 1/4 in.

Beginning April 21st, The Drawing Room is pleased to launch an online presentation of new works on paper by Sue Heatley. An illustrated digital catalog with prices is available on the gallery's website: www.drawingroom-gallery.com. While the gallery remains closed temporarily, we encourage those on the East End to keep an eye on the gallery's 55 Main Street storefront window for a changing selection of exhibition highlights.

Sue Heatley's *Southern Exposure* series explores impressions of place in a spontaneous and delicately balanced abstract language. Over the past thirty years, the tactile qualities of her working materials have been central to a rich studio practice encompassing printmaking, painting and ceramics. For this recent group of mixed media works, the initial catalyst was the artist's discovery of a cotton rag paper with a warm hue and inviting luminosity. Through her layering of improvised marks, both drawn and painted, Heatley transformed the flat paper surface of each work into a spacious field for the dynamic interplay of imaginative forms.

Amidst ethereal washes that evoke cloud formations, mountain ranges and woven linear grids, bolder dark shapes intervene. Collaged patches of shimmering sandpaper, broad indigo brushstrokes and black acrylic silhouettes provide armatures and ballast that anchor Heatley's dreamlike compositions. Her rhythmic drifts of pattern conjure topographical maps and weather charts in the translucent palettes of 19th century Japanese woodcuts. Throughout the series, Heatley implements carefully calibrated contrasts between light and dark, delicate and bold, opaque and diaphanous as if splicing together a montage of visceral reverie. Looking back at the work, the artist recognizes allusions to recent sensory experiences: the arc of Richmond's James River, the open structure of flowering dogwoods and the splendor of Giotto's 14th century frescos.

(over)

Born in Ohio, Sue Heatley received a BA in art history from Hiram College and later studied printmaking at the Richmond Printmaking Workshop in Virginia. In 2006, after twenty years as a practicing artist in Richmond, Heatley relocated to East Hampton, New York where she lived in the historic artist community of Springs. In 2018 she returned to Richmond. The subject of two previous solo shows at The Drawing Room, her work has also been presented at the International Print Center New York and other galleries and institutions both in Richmond and New York. Among the public and corporate collections that include her work are the Special Collections and Archives of Virginia Commonwealth University, the United States Department of State, Washington, DC, Estée Lauder Companies, Media General Company and Milbank, Tweed, Hadley, McCloy. Recently her work was prominently featured on the cover of *Singular & Serial: Contemporary Monotype and Monoprint*.

For further information and reproduction quality images
contact Morgana Tetherow-Keller at 631 324.5016 or morgana@drawingroom-gallery.com

www.drawingroom-gallery.com