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Amy Sillman: Works On Paper



Synopsis

Works on Paper marks the first major publication of the work of noted New York painter Amy Sillman, whose rapidly growing reputation and increasingly recognized influence on other artists make its timing ideal. Her paintings and drawings are at once narrative and decorative, filled with quirky figures and diminutive, patterned elements. Her works on paper, which she considers particularly central to her art-making practice and her wider portfolio, are often made up of multiple components. They create the feeling of an extended and meandering sequence of events, and have been described as reminiscent of both film loops and long letters to her viewers. Works on Paper consists of four major series of Sillman's drawings, all recent and documented by brilliant full-color photographs. It also includes an essay by acclaimed writer Wayne Koestenbaum, who has long been celebrated for both his poetry and prose, and who has become one of our most innovative and influential writers on contemporary art and culture. His lavish, seductive and humorous writing style is the perfect complement to Sillman's lyrical works. This book is a delightful introduction to a rising star.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is really a work of art itself. I love the work of Amy Sillman and though I can't afford one of her works, this book is as close as one can get. You can really experience the work up close and the different qualities of the paper and comments by Koestenbaum are pure poetry! Its truly a dedication to a great woman artist.If you are an art lover, you need to experience this artist!!!

This is a fab book to have - all works on paper. Each page is a full printed close up of the works she has done. Its incredibly arty and enjoyable. It comes in a sleeve which is cut out. A great catalogue to own.

As much as I love Amy Sillman's work, I could not warm up to this book. First, it contains no commentary, no editorial or biographical information - Koestenbaum provides only a kind of free-form blank verse that I found pretentious: "Parting the Red Sea, she is stuck in a doldrums, with a bad haircut." Really? In addition, while the layout of the book is interesting, I found it annoying. Each section has a fold-out insert of all of the works in that category, in approximately a 2" x 2.5" thumbnail. The section itself then shows a selection of those works, but cropped to fit the book's (albeit generous) dimensions and/or to provide a sectional close-up. The result is a mish-mash of images, some showing about 80% of the full image, others as little as about 20% of a work, some in a full-page spread, some as a single page. I found myself constantly trying to check back to the thumbnails to see what I was missing; it ended up a sort of scavenger hunt. In the end, I just didn't feel like I was getting a coherent sense of the artist's real work.

I was at the Whitney Museum this week and came across this book, which I've been planning on buying already--being a big fan of Sillman's work. Besides her art talents, the book in itself is a piece of art. It's not your regular white pages with a picture in the middle, it's done very creatively. It's not on the top of my wish list pile.

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