

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 20, 2020

***VOLTA New York 2020***  
***Francie Hester***

March 4 - 8, 2020



Susan Eley Fine Art | Booth 1.27

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We are delighted to feature painter Francie Hester in our solo booth at VOLTA New York 2020. SEFA has represented Hester in solo and group exhibitions in the gallery, and at numerous art fairs in Miami, Toronto, New York, Silicon Valley and Saratoga Springs, NY since 2012. This will be the gallery's debut with VOLTA New York.

The highlight of our booth (booth 1.27) will be the 40 Daily Drawings, stacked in a grid on one wall. Hester created the Daily Drawings over 40 days in the Spring of 2018. The artist had moved to New York City from her home in Silver Spring, MD for the season to enjoy the rich array of cultural and other offerings. Hester set a goal to create one drawing a day to document this sojourn—her so-called New York Artist Residency—a time she filled with lectures, readings, theater, gallery and museum hops and numerous social gatherings.

The drawings reflect the complexity and excitement of a city into which she immersed herself. The act of making a drawing a day became a way to keep a visual diary of her emotional and visceral reactions to these events. The results are paintings that burst with color, texture and pattern, and which reflect the organized chaos she came to truly understand as an inhabitant of the city. While each drawing is a masterful work unto itself, the series draws its power from the sum of the parts—a painterly documentation of the sequencing of the passage of time. The Daily Drawings were first exhibited in Hester's solo show at the gallery, "Suspending" (Spring, 2019)

The booth also features Hester's most recent paintings on honeycombed aluminum panels and curved plexiglass in a variety of shapes and sizes. Hester discovered honeycombed aluminum 21 years ago while looking for a material that was durable, yet light and would provide an appropriate surface for her rigorous practice of applying paint, sanding, layering and reapplying paint. The introduction of plexiglass as a medium further allowed Hester to push the limits of transparency and layering. Each textured surface reveals the hidden layers of paint that came

before. As if producing a textile, the artist seems to have found a way to weave color, pushing and pulling it through an entire painting, looking for the confluence of disparate elements and finding fluid rhythm and visual harmony.

The series on view includes **Convex**, circles segmented in three parts; **Vessels**, curved circular wall pieces; and **Strata**, vertical and upright aluminum strips in a variety of widths. A selection of her most recent works on paper, created in the past year, will round out Hester's VOLTA presentation.

## Artist Bio

Hester's work has been exhibited both nationally and internationally and has received honorary grants from the District of Columbia Commission on the Arts and Humanities and from the Arts Council of Montgomery County, MD. She is represented in numerous private and corporate collections including the World Bank, Capital One, KPMG, Covington & Burling, the International Monetary Fund and the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. Hester's commissioned works include a 1996 piece for the Ginetta Sagan Fund of Amnesty International and an 18-foot atrium piece for the Chicago Kent College of Law. In addition, she has created large-scale sculptural aluminum paintings for Airbus headquarters, ASHA, Booz Allen Hamilton and National Endowment for the Arts Member Benefits. Francie Hester received her MFA in painting from the University of Maryland and a BFA in painting from the University of Michigan. She is represented by Susan Eley Fine Art in New York City.

## Artist Statement

My work over the past decade has explored the sequencing of time--how seemingly random or disjointed events form patterns that crystallize time. The Strata and Convex series reflect this exploration of interconnections that create rhythm and memory. The gentle arc of the Vessels creates a space for reflection, contemplation, healing and remembering. Thought, time and memory come together as a collective. The Intertwined series examines two contrasting principles: Time is marked and measured and Time is unbounded, fluid and infinite.

*Confluence* continues the dialogue of the *Daily Drawing Series*, a visual diary that integrates day-to-day imagery to narrate a story about shifting time. In *Confluence*, the layering of fragmented and unfolding circles--the underpinning for each piece--defines a sense of deep and evolving space. Surfaces are sanded, layered and textured with pumice stone to reveal a network of embedded color and imagery. Patterns and pathways laced together articulate the undulating and often uncertain paths of interconnection. Shared connections between competing arcs embody the search for collective meaning and common ground.