

MICHAEL STEINBERG FINE ART

For Immediate Release:

Barbara Friedman

In Passing

March 22 – April 21, 2007

Opening reception:

Thursday, March 22nd, 6 - 8 pm



Hovering between Heraclitus and Heisenberg, Barbara Friedman's recent paintings confront the viewer with a certain uncertainty. As painterly embodiments of the ancient Greek philosopher's assertion that "Nothing endures but change," the new works accomplish the seemingly self-contradictory task of freezing time and motion while simultaneously conveying their existence as phenomena. And though apparently depicting traditional scenes and events – *Passing Truck; Pink Garage; Blue Trampoline* – Friedman portrays a non-deterministic universe, a world of probability and potential similar to the vision promulgated by quantum mechanics. Somewhat contradictory to the "observer effect" that is often linked to Heisenberg's uncertainty principle, however, in the case of Friedman's work, the viewer rather than the event is transformed.

Writing about her recent work, Barbara Friedman states:

*The paintings examine the vagueness of appearances
and the need to keep renegotiating one's bearings.
As distillations of passing moments they speak to an
elevated sense of mortality but also to a feeling of being
optically over-powered.*

In Passing, the artist's first solo show with Michael Steinberg Fine Art, is a vibrant amalgam of the tradition of American landscape painting and contemporary concerns with the impact of photography, film and video. In a recent essay about Friedman's work, the critic Lily Wei describes them as "a two-way exposition of time and memory cinematically formatted..."

Barbara Friedman has lived and shown her work in New York City since 1983, after receiving her B.F.A. from the Rhode Island School of Design and her M.F.A. from UC Berkeley. Also since 1983 she has been Professor of Art at Pace University. She has had numerous solo exhibitions in New York City, most recently at Paul Sharpe Contemporary Art.

Other solo exhibitions include The Painting Center, Queens Museum, and White Columns (New York City); Van Brunt Gallery (Beacon, NY), Carnegie-Mellon University (Pittsburgh), Cleveland State University, Dana Wright Gallery, San Francisco, and The Roanoke Museum of Fine Arts; two-person shows at the Wallace Gallery of SUNY Old Westbury and Marymount Manhattan College; and group shows at the Drawing Center, Artists Space, Exit Art, Art in General, Gray Art Gallery, the Terry Dintenfass Gallery (all New York City); the Snug Harbor Cultural Center, Staten Island; the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art in Connecticut; and the Metro Building in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Reviews of her work have appeared in the *New York Times*, the *New York Sun*, *The Irish Times*, *Newsday*, *Art in America*, *ARTS Magazine*, and *Artweek*. Three of her paintings are reproduced in the 2007 issue (#68) of *New American Paintings: A catalog of the winners' work from the 2006 Northeastern Competition*.

Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-6pm.

For more information, please call 212.924.5770 or email info@msfineart.net.