

Curved Reality Recent Paintings and drawings by Pamela Lawton

The Gallery at the Atrium Shops and Cafes
153 East 53rd Street , New York NY 10022
November and December 2011

In this new exhibit Pamela Lawton expands her treatment of skyscraper architecture, a theme that originated in her World Trade Center studio.

In Lawton's paintings, modern glass-curtain walls appear to move when reflected in each other. True to the patterns of light and color in glass, the undulating grid framing the hallucinogenic modern glass windows captures the temporal nature of fleeting reflections. Her work addresses the paradox of the stability and fragility of architecture.

"The abstract qualities of a glass grid struck me while a grantee in the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council artist-in-residence program at the World Trade Center in the late Nineties," says Lawton. "I painted the view from Towers 1 and 2. The moving, distorted glass mirrored my sense of feeling afloat and un-tethered from high up. The elevator passage and the vertiginous views induced a disorienting spatial sense."

Critic and poet David Shapiro writes, Lawton's "work is a hymn to the created beings (of the skyscraper) through light. It alludes to architecture and landscape, to the stress of modern glass."

Some pieces in the current exhibition were made or begun at the World Trade Center, and show the Towers reflected in the Deutsche Bank building. Others were executed recently from the balcony in her temporary outdoor "studio" at 53rd and Lexington Avenue of the skyscraper views there. Whereas for her last show she painted on the street in Times Square, this time her Midtown views were made from above, looking across.

Including nineteen paintings, drawings and collages, from miniature collages to the largest piece reaching eleven feet high, this exhibit shows the myriad possibilities of this continually inspiring theme.

Lawton's solo exhibitions include The Conde Nast Building (2009); 180 Maiden Lane (2007-8); Galeria Nacional, Costa Rica (2004); White Box Gallery's project space, NYC (2003); Galeria Isabel Ignacio, Spain (2002). Artists' residencies include Chashama, The Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's Swing Space (South Street Seaport) and World Views (WTC), the Millenium Hilton, and the Marriott World Financial Center. She has taught at New School University, creating a study-abroad art program in Sri Lanka, and is currently on the faculty of William Paterson University. Two recently published limited edition books feature her drawings; *A Place In the Sun* by Lewis Warsh (Spuyten Duyvil Press, 2009), a novel, and *Walking After Midnight* by Bill Kushner (Spuyten Duyvil Press, 2011), a book of poems.

The artist gratefully acknowledges Boston Properties for their generous support. In addition, a special thank you goes to Chashama for the space grant.

Gallery hours: 7AM to Midnight, every day.