

Pamela Lawton

Painter of Fluid Architecture, Former World Trade Center Artist

Liquid City

Presented by the Durst Organization

Conde Nast Building, Four Times Square (42nd St. between 6th-7th Aves), NYC

Television coverage appears on http://ny1.com/1-all-boroughs-news-content/ny1_living/whipples_world/

From October 20th - November 30th, 2009, **The Durst Organization** will present recent large-scale work by Pamela Lawton, a former Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Artist in Residence at the World Trade Center.

LIQUID CITY is a vivid collection of monumental paintings, including an 18 foot high painting Lawton created out-of-doors on a Times Square street, one canvas at a time.

Amidst the cacophony and commercial tourism of Times Square, Lawton's paintings highlight ephemeral and unnoticed views: the warping glass reflections in the towering windows of the Conde Nast skyscraper itself. Lawton's paintings are "Found Abstractions," true to the patterns of light and color found in window reflections. The undulating grid framing the hallucinogenic modern glass windows structures her work and captures the temporal nature of the fleeting reflections cast from one building to another. Her work reminds us of the fragility of seemingly stable architecture.

Lawton's work is a veritable record of the ever-changing Manhattan skyline, from inside the World Trade Center to the street level of "Ground Zero," and now to Times Square. These fluid, architectural paintings began when she was an artist-in-residence on the 53rd floor of Tower 1, World Trade Center. Her sense of vulnerability, caused by the swaying structure, gave way to becoming transfixed by the glimpses of glass splintering through the sun's glare. "I would get an adrenaline surge from the heights and the loss of a sense of being grounded, and began painting from that feeling of disorientation." A decade later, painting, among other places, at Ground Zero, reflection, and now absence, continues to inform her art.

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."

Lawton's solo exhibitions include 180 Maiden Lane, NYC (2009) Galeria Nacional, Costa Rica (2004) White Box Gallery's project space, NYC (2003) Galeria Isabel Ignacio, Spain (2002). Artists' residencies include Chashama, 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, where she created a study-abroad art program in Sri Lanka. A limited edition book with her drawings, *A Place In the Sun* by Lewis Warsh (Spuyten Duyvil) has just been published.

The exhibit will feature large-scale works, preparatory drawings, studies and prints.

Liquid City, open Monday through Friday 8 AM to 6 PM and most other times too.

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