

Abby Goldstein



Recommended by Betsy Sussler

Abby Goldstein has used cartography—maps of New York, Vienna, or Venice—as the grounding for her paintings and drawings. Cities she has wandered through, meandering their streets and pathways as a stroller and as a thinker, have helped to form the essence of her image-making. You can see the masterful accretion of this desire to re-envision an entanglement of both the tangible and intangible in the buildup of layers—encaustic, pigment, gouache, walnut ink, Casein—the material use of which the artist has perfected in her decades-long practice. The natural world, too, has served as a map for these musings: *Navigating the Cerebral Mind Field*, is sumptuous, a virtuoso chronicling of a summer walk through meadows of wild flowers and grasses, Goldenrod and Queen Anne’s Lace. There are no paths or roads to follow in Goldstein’s exploration of nature. Her visual strokes chart another sort of path, her interior reflections’ response to the wild fields and the dark forests on their borders, structuring what at first might seem chaotic into an unabashedly beautiful work of art.

Betsy Sussler, Fall 2020

Bio

Abby Goldstein (b. Chicago, IL) received a BFA from Pratt Institute, NY and an MFA from the School of Visual Arts, NY. Currently she is Professor of Art and head of the Graphic Design concentration at Fordham University, NY. She has had numerous solo and group exhibitions and is the collaborator and co-designer of “*Revival Type*” with Paul Shaw and the designer of the award winning book, “*Helvetica and the New York City Subway System*”. Goldstein has exhibited her art

in the US and abroad. She has received fellowships to the Golden's Foundation for the Arts, New Berlin, NY; the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Amherst, VA; the Saltonstall Foundation of the Arts, Ithaca, NY; the Sam and Adele Golden Foundation, Brush Creek Artist Residency; the Hambidge Center for Creative Arts & Science, Vermont Studio Center; Yaddo; and Willapa Bay. Public commissions include: Gateway Center, Brooklyn, NY, Manhattan Bridge Bicycle path, NYC Department of Transportation, and St. George Ferry Terminal, Staten Island, NY. Goldstein lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

Artist Statement

“Signs form a language, but not the one you think you know.” –Italo Calvino, Invisible Cities.

My background in typography and design influences my picture and mark making. Intertwining marks traverse a two-dimensional space forming a system of lines and spaces. Clusters of circular and organic shapes in subtle hues combine with repeated rectangles and lines in contrasting colors to evoke movement and the disparity between built and natural environments. My process is a journey through a geographical space that often references a specific location. Fundamental to my methodology is the organic unfolding of each piece. By obscuring and redrawing I let the process remain visible with overlays of color washes, markers, and opaque paint suggesting evolutionary change. While I work, preconceived ideas are rejected and a response to the unexpected is embraced. A visual system, alluding to landscape, natural habitats, and cartography emerge based on symbology, disruption, and transformation.



*Abby Goldstein 2019, Navigating the Cerebral Mind Field 1, Pigment Dispersion with Matte Binder on Paper
44"x30"*