



Brooding and Blissful Halcyon Days, 2014, graphite and gouache on paper, 22 x 30 inches (56 x 76 cm) each panel

HELEN REBEKAH GARBER *Numbers*

November 6 – December 20, 2014

Opening reception: Thursday, November 6, 6 - 8 PM

Gallery Wendi Norris

161 Jessie Street

San Francisco, CA 94105

Gallery Wendi Norris is pleased to present the gallery's first solo exhibition of new work by Los Angeles-based artist **Helen Rebekah Garber**.

Garber is fascinated by the underlying geometric systems found in metaphysical imagery attributed to otherwise vastly different ancient and contemporary cultures. In her thickly-layered oil paintings and hand drawn works on paper, she explores underlying mathematical relationships within aesthetic symbols. She elicits visual parallels between scientific notation and supernatural ritual documentation as metaphor for what is known and what is speculative across time, culture and place.

In this exhibition, Garber will show a series of new large-scale paintings that are nearly monochromatic but for traces of subtle color that peak through layers of gray and white paint. Alongside the paintings, Garber will exhibit three diptychs, created in graphite and gouache on paper. The subject matter is an indecipherable language constructed

by the artist that references modernist fonts yet also appears as though it could mimic spacecraft circuitry. In each piece, the “letters” spell out lines from a different Walt Whitman poem relating to individual spiritual conquest. The shapes in the drawings are based on first a translation of a quote using Sir Thomas More’s utopian alphabet that was created in 1516 and employed in his book *Utopia*. Garber then converts these quotes into geometric symbols. Each panel of the diptychs is a mirror image of the other; they read visually as delicate pages of oversized manuscripts.

Garber studies the intangible powers that many civilizations believe control the universe, including magnetic fields, energy fields (positive and negative), sonar, love, luck, religious fervor and subconscious internal drives. She explains, “Due to these powers’ intrinsic invisibility, different cultures find similar ways of translating these abstractions into communicable forms.” The characters and symbols that underpin her work are derived from these mystical yet eternal commonalities. Garber questions whether the areas of semblance between societies reveal intrinsic truths about human communication.

Garber was born 1976 in State College, Pennsylvania and grew up in New York City. She graduated with a BFA from California Institute of the Arts in Valencia, California in 2007. Her work has been exhibited at numerous venues in the United States and Europe including The Laguna Art Museum; Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles; 31 Grand Gallery, New York; Bronwyn Keenan Gallery, New York; and Per Mari E Monte Arte, Naples, Italy. She has been featured in publications including *The New York Times*, *New American Paintings*, *Art Ltd.*, *Spin Magazine*, and *The Frankfurter Alleingman Zeitung*. She has received critical attention from writers including, Roberta Smith, Peter Frank, Howard Halle and David Pagel. Helen Rebekah Garber lives and works in Los Angeles.

For press inquiries, contact Jessica Shaefer at press@gallerywendinorris.com