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alternative art criticism

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***Stardust* by Nola Zirin**

June Kelly Gallery

December 18, 2013 to January 21, 2014

Nola Zirin's recent solo exhibition titled *Stardust* features fifteen new works that introduced fifteen new paintings that introduced a unique, visual dynamism into the genre of abstraction while still reflecting the artist's signature layering process. Zirin rephrases pictorial space by exploring sweeping, painterly gestures that are set at sharp angles, creating a suggestion of three-dimensional space, placeless but familiar within the experience of one's subjective perception. Along with four very small collages *Stardust* presented eight large-scale paintings that wove glitter into painted surfaces, touching upon the flicker of



Nola Zirin. *Suspension*. Oil, enamel and glitter on canvas, 72 x 52 in. Photo courtesy of June Kelly Gallery.

memories, photograms and film stills within the urban haze of New York City.

The smoky atmosphere rendered in *Voyager* shows a swirl of gold and yellow paint shining across a black surface, laced with a white silhouette. Within this space measuring five-foot square, dark golden shades swirl and dance across the painting's far left margin as hints of industry and time fall to the center.



Zirin-Voyager 2013 oil enamel and glitter on canvas 60 x 60 inches. Photo courtesy of June Kelly Gallery.



Nola Zirin. *Orbit*. Oil, enamel and glitter on canvas, 72 x 52 in. Photo courtesy of June Kelly Gallery.

Suspension measures six-feet by four-feet and features a vortex of colors that collect off-center, suggesting either a broken window or stained glass. Blue and black paint drips from above and below as this geometric mirage begets curiosity.



Nola Zirin. *Invention 23*. Oil, enamel and glitter on canvas, 72 x 52 in. Photo courtesy of June Kelly Gallery.

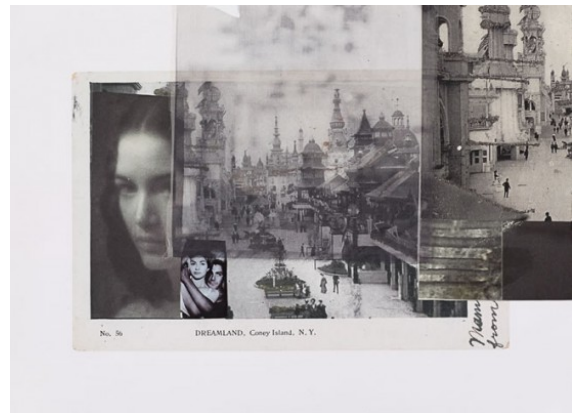
The black, gray and white squares that populate *Inventions #23* is of a similar scale but far more subdued. The blur of white over black seen across the painting's background suggests this as a metaphor of a film still – or, more precisely, a photogram. *Orbit*, however, presents a mesmerizing red orb that appears suspended within a cross-hatch of gray, black, white and sky blue colors. Hypnotic, geometric renditions appear in three additional pieces titled *Elliptical Variations*, *The Big H*, *Suspension Study* and *Super 8*.

The artist hints at

Japanese Sumi ink drawings in two untitled

pieces that feature a thick, lucid black line of ink that arcs across one moon-like surface, while the other embellishes the empty background. In the horizontal painting titled *Nocturne* the background is changed to black and the lines are white yet just as serendipitous. The collages take one back to a point in time that no longer exists – a place from the early 20th-century in Coney Island called *Dreamland*. Nola Zirin transforms time in each piece seen throughout *Stardust*, shifting it from the typical angst-filled moment to something other, a sparkling mystery.

—*Jill Conner, New York City*



Nola Zirin. *Turrets and Towers at Luna Park*. Mixed media collages on canvas and silk, 12 x 17 in. Photo courtesy of June Kelly Gallery.