

SURFACE

&

SUBSTANCE

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Curated by Hester Simpson

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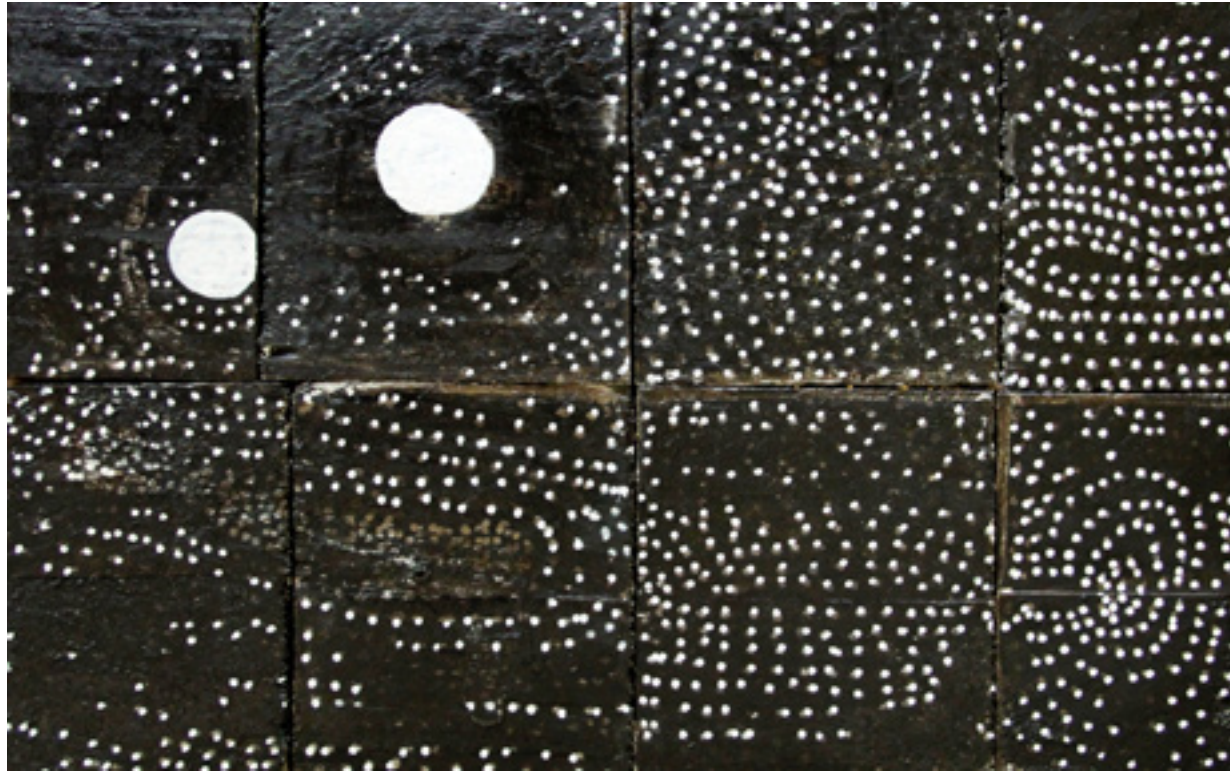
Surface & Substance

At once ordinary and intimate, the relationship that accrues between artists and their respective mediums evinces practical considerations relating to material properties, as well as the embodiment of distinct aesthetic purviews. With *Surface & Substance*, I highlight this dynamic by focusing on ten artists for whom surfaces are responses to a world of shifting values and chaotic changes. Paul Behnke, Elisa D'Arrigo, Shane Drinkwater, Daniel G. Hill, Elizabeth Knowles, Mario Naves, Carol Salmanson, Mary Schiliro, Jane Schiowitz and I alternately emphasize the rough-hewn and the seamless, the casual and the resolute. In doing so, we channel currents of the broader culture even as we hone our own peculiar visions. I cite cultural observers who have linked changes in the surfaces of artworks to socio-political currents and cultural upheaval. The artist and historian Jonathan Janson writes of how a “rough manner exposes the working processes to the spectator making him party to the artifice to which the illusion is achieved.” More refined approaches to paint-handling endow illusion with an overriding clarity and precision. Both approaches can exist simultaneously and, as such, offer different interpretations of the world in which they were created. And so it is with the artists featured in *Surface & Substance*. They give body to the extraordinary — and extraordinarily swift — changes taking place in contemporary life.

Hester Simpson, 2017



Mario Naves, *Fresno*, 2015, Acrylic on panel
20” x 30”, Courtesy Elizabeth Harris Gallery



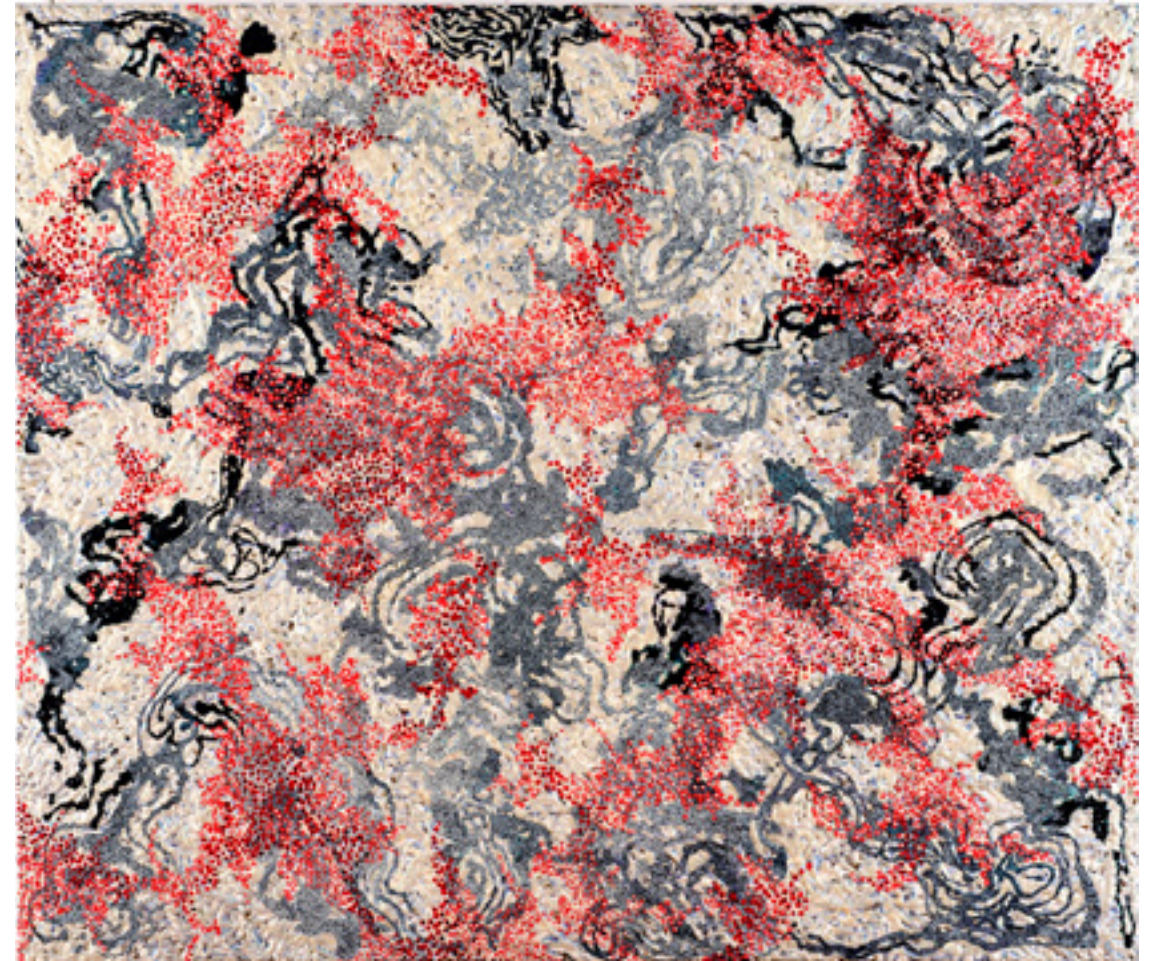
Shane Drinkwater, *Star Collection 1*
2014, Acrylic on timber, 7" x 12"



Carol Salmanson, *Lighter than Air*
2016 and 2017, LED's, wire, resistors



Daniel G. Hill, *Spider Painting*, 2016, Stainless steel wire and music wire, 36" x 30" x 3", Multiple of three



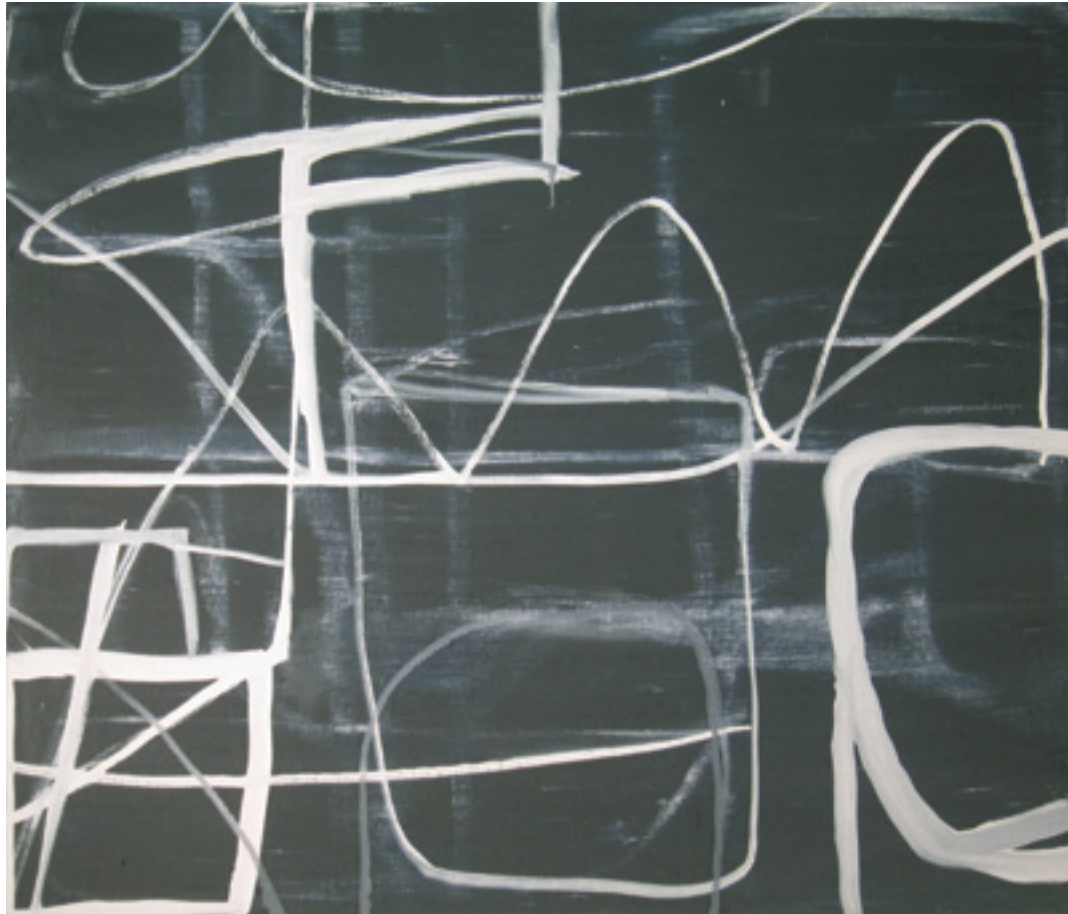
Elizabeth Knowles, *Japan*, 2015
Acrylic on canvas, 50" x 42"



Paul Behnke, *The Lover Speaks*, 2016
Acrylic and flashe on canvas, 20" x 20"



Mary Schiliro, *Random Dip 16*
2017, Acrylic on Mylar, 36" x 12"



Jane Schiowitz, *Departure*
2015, Oil on canvas, 30" x 35"



Elisa D'Arrigo, *Shift Into Black*, 2007, Cloth, thread, acrylic mediums and paint, 29" x 25" x 4", Courtesy of the Artist and Elizabeth Harris Gallery



Hester Simpson, *PinkOrangeBlueBrown*, 2017, Acrylic on linen mounted on wood panel, 36" x 36", Courtesy Ricco/Maresca Gallery

