



Mary Bucci McCoy **Vis-à-vis**

5.18.19 – 6.22.19

Gray Contemporary

3508 Lake Street, Houston, TX 77098

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Vis-à-vis

Vis-à-vis, this poetically powerful exhibition of recent paintings by Mary Bucci McCoy, brings us face to face with art that at first glance may seem minimal. But as we examine them, these works reveal much more to us, with both directness and nuance.

Bucci McCoy's practice proceeds through a boldly intuitive experimentation with materials, translating the natural phenomena of growth, flow and luminosity with spontaneity and freshness and conveying a rigorous clarity of formal intention. Her early training in ceramics has informed her acute awareness of the physical properties of painting materials: their viscosity, stickiness, movement, sag, reflectivity, iridescence, transparency, graininess, and so on. In her paintings, the paint appears not so much to have been applied, but to have moved into position through an alchemical process of transformation akin to that undergone by ceramic clays and glazes in a kiln. The resulting surfaces offer viewers rare experiences of visual tactility, with a slow "read" that is rich and rewarding.

Bucci McCoy's command of scale relationships creates another remarkable aspect of her work. These paintings are actually small in size. Many are ovals, roughly the size of your head. But they rivet our attention, with an awareness of vastness and detail that is uncanny. We return to the paintings to look again and again, prompted by the sensation of movement in our consciousness of space. The paintings remind us at once of mirror-like reflections of light on a micro scale, shifting to sky-like views of endless depth. These scale shifts prompt the mind to move into realms of analogy and fields of contemplation.

It is this convergence of simplicity and complexity that drives our appreciation of Mary Bucci McCoy's work, which should be ranked among the strongest contemporary non-objective painting being made today.

— Linda Leslie Brown, April 2019

Boston-based artist and educator Linda Leslie Brown has exhibited her sculptural work and installations nationally. She is the recipient of numerous honors including the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston Traveling Fellowship and residencies throughout the United States and abroad.

Mary Bucci McCoy (b. 1962, New Brunswick, NJ) lives and works in coastal Essex County, MA. Recent solo exhibitions include Jane Deering Gallery, Gloucester, MA; Gray Contemporary, Houston, TX; CG2 Gallery, Nashville, TN; and Kingston Gallery, Boston, MA. Other selected venues include boeckercontemporary, Heidelberg, Germany; The Curator Gallery, New York, NY; Key Projects, Long Island City, NY; The Neon Heater, Findlay, OH; Rhode Island College, Providence, RI; Montserrat College of Art, Beverly, MA; Tiger Strikes Asteroid, Philadelphia, PA; FPAC Gallery, Boston, MA; and the Art Complex Museum, Duxbury, MA. Awards include a Painting Fellowship from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a merit-based residency grant from the Vermont Studio Center, and the Luz Dorrien Faculty Development Award, Montserrat College of Art, Beverly, MA. Mary holds a BFA from School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston/Tufts University as well as a BA in English from Tufts University, and has also studied ceramic sculpture at l'Ecole des Arts Decoratifs in Geneva, Switzerland (now Haute École d'Art et de Design Genève). She teaches at Montserrat College of Art, Beverly, MA.

IMAGE: Lūx — acrylic, iridescent acrylic and marble dust on plywood, 10 x 7.75 x 1", 2017