

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Neysa Grassi

Rose Gatherer

September 1–October 8, 2011

Reception:

Friday, September 9th, 5:30 - 7:30pm

Gallery hours:

Tues - Sat, 10am - 6pm



Poet's Garden, 2011, oil on linen, 40 1/8 x 40 1/8 inches

July 2011, Philadelphia, PA - Locks Gallery is pleased to present “Rose Gatherer,” an exhibition of new paintings by Philadelphia artist Neysa Grassi, along with a selection of works that marked the development of her art in the last decade. The exhibition will be on view September 1 through October 8, 2011, and will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalog with an essay by Susan Stewart. There will be a reception for the artist Friday, September 9, 2011 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm.

Neysa Grassi’s painting is introspective, yet not ethereal. The surface of the canvas reveals the physicality of the artist’s creative process. The multiple layers of paint that have been applied, scarred, concealed, wiped out, and covered again, give it the tactile quality of skin. The artist’s new paintings unveil an inner radiance in old rose and grey hues or in shades of blue, from cobalt to steel color. Here, the meditative abstractions may evoke water, rosebushes, stones, or clouds but in reality, as Barry Schwabsky noticed, they “neither exclude resemblance nor rely on it. Their point is to aid us in approaching the singularity of the pictorial sensation, not lead away from it.”

Poet and critic Susan Stewart, upon visiting Grassi’s studio, titled her essay “Colors without names.” She writes: “After the year or two that it takes to make a painting, every tube of paint in Grassi’s studio is covered with fingerprints and worn with use to the point where she no longer can read its name. Here is one of the most deeply original dimensions of her work, for, as she says, she is “moving toward a presentation of colors that

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have no names, that have not yet been named.” A viewer looking at her work must truly look; the mind and eye cannot “land” on a layer or region of the painting and identify a name, term, or concept that already exists; the only solution is to keep looking.”

Neysa Grassi, a recipient of a Pew Fellowship, has had solo exhibitions at several museums, including the Pensacola Art Museum, FL and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, PA; her work is in the collection of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art, and the Palmer Museum of Art. Since 1990 the artist has had over 18 one-person exhibitions in galleries in Philadelphia and New York. Grassi is currently a critic in the Masters of Fine Arts program at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.

Susan Stewart is poet and critic, and the Avalon Foundation University Professor in the Humanities at Princeton University.

Locks Gallery is located at 600 Washington Square South in Philadelphia, PA. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10am to 6pm. For additional information, please contact Locks Gallery at 215.629.1000 voice, 215.629.3868 fax, or info@locksgallery.com.

