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Denyse Thomasos

Paintings 1995 - 1997

May 29 – July 25, 1997

Tuesday-Saturday 10-6

This is Denyse Thomasos's first solo exhibition in a New York gallery. Her work has been seen last summer in a group exhibition here, and she is one of the youngest painters included in the survey exhibition "after the fall: Aspects of abstract painting since 1970" presently at the snug harbor cultural center. Six of her large-scale paintings were exhibited at the Queens Museum satellite gallery at the Bulova corporate center from January to May.

Born in Trinidad in 1964, Denyse Thomasos went to the University of Toronto (1987), The Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture (1988) and received an MFA from Yale (1989). She taught at the Tyler School of art in Philadelphia from 1990 to 1995 and now teaches at Rutgers. Thomasos has received a number of grants and awards from the NEA, the Pew Fellowship, The American Academy in Rome, The Marie Walsh Sharpe Studio Program, just recently from the Guggenheim Foundation.

Her paintings are striking for their dynamic resolution and her command of the heroic scale. Working with a single brush, and laying down more or less uniform stokes in parallel stacks, she locates units of cross-hatched color over, under and adjacent to each other. Some are frontal and parallel to the plane; others skew diagonally and establish dimensional blocks of space in the painting. There is a visual tension in this shift from flatness to receding spatial planes, and this tension is heightened by the insertion of occasional errant stokes which run against the gridded system and which appear more often in the newest paintings.