

Nancy Riegelman: A Path of Myriad Views

Nov. 7, 2019 – Dec. 8, 2019. Opening reception for the artist: Thursday November 7th 5:00-7:00pm

Ai+ Gallery is delighted to present the work of Los Angeles-based artist and art-educator Nancy Riegelman.

Nancy Riegelman's extensive art career has focused on exploring different ways that the body can perform as an instrument of production within the creative process. Through drawing, sculpture, embroidery, and poetry, her lines articulate ideas about physicality, impermanence, and the experience of time transcribed through the body. *A Path of Myriad Views* traces the varying paths and methodologies that the artist had undertaken over the years, while bringing into view the intricate worlds that constitute Riegelman's distinctive practice.

Riegelman's work is deeply engaged with surface, material, and lightness, as translated through skilled craftsmanship and with a keen eye for detail. Included in the exhibition are pieces from *Breath*, a series of formal drawings from 2007 which were constructed in relation to the body's scale and internal rhythms. The discrete and contiguous marks made by pencil in this series were determined by the length of the artist's respiration during the creative process. In this way, each piece lives as the physical manifestation of the stream of moments in which it was created.

Riegelman's interest in the connection between physicality and transmission stems from her own experiences as an artist. She is drawn to the intimacy embedded in the corporeal act of creation by concentrating on the moment when the mind and body come together to give rise to an idea. Her work often takes objects as touchstones to memories and places, encapsulating the object's own past while reviving those of the viewer. The performance piece *Fallen*, as staged by Riegelman's former student Valentin Liu during the exhibition opening, evokes a similar line of thought.

Unfolding in their own intuitive ways, Riegelman's most recent series are made from hand-embroidered textiles with woven drawings, titled *Woven Topiary*. The designs are circuitous, meandering in labyrinthine patterns across the fabric, becoming their own interpretations of time. These textiles are hung in the exhibition as if a scroll or perhaps a vision of landscape, offering a place to enter and reflect upon the process of each gesture made.

It is in such ways that Riegelman's work alludes to spaces beyond the senses, connecting the viewer to realms within and outside themselves. Each piece exists as a record of a moment commemorated, offering an anchor for the body to acknowledge its being within that time. Each line presents a space to see, to breathe, and to be present, opening paths to experience a myriad of views.

Nancy Riegelman has studied at UC Berkley, UCLA, and ArtCenter College of Art and Design. She has exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Art Los Angeles (MOCA), the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE), Long Beach Museum, Los Angeles County Art Museum (LACMA) amongst other institutions throughout the United States. Her work has been collected by LACMA, the Frederick R. Weisman Foundation, Werner Kramarsky, Giles Mahe, Sony Classic Films, and more. She was represented by Western Project LA. Over the years, she has lectured worldwide, teaching in India, Japan, China, France, Russia, Korea, and Thailand. Currently, she continues to serve as a distinguished professor at the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising, as well as ArtCenter, where she has taught for over 25 years.

