

TANEY RONIGER

Stones and Ciphers

March 7 – April 26, 2009

Reception: Saturday, March 7, 2009 from 6 to 10 pm. Artist will be present at reception.

Slate Gallery is proud to present *Stones and Ciphers*, a solo exhibition of recent paintings by Taney Roniger. Featured are four works from Roniger's *Stones Series* begun in 2006 and four paintings from her *Ciphers Series* begun in 2008. Both series are informed by questions of how the pervasiveness of computers in contemporary life is changing our perceptions of the world. In these paintings the artist created forms and configurations that evoke the mechanical work of computation while alluding to an invisible code of nature. Roniger's art explores the complexity of these questions without answering them.

The artist's technique is a painstaking process that she begins by preparing the canvas with up to a dozen layers of finely sanded gesso. She then adds another dozen layers of translucent polymer paint which produces the distinctive "stoney" surface of her paintings. Roniger marks the prepared surface with thin oil paint applied with brushes and Q-tips with the aid of a stencil. It takes the artist two and a half months to complete a painting.

Patterns in the *Stones Series* evoke natural forms from molecules to seashells, and circuitry and code strings, configurations associated with computation. Roniger organizes the marks in an underlying grid by using "a random process, most often by rolling dice, with the result of each roll determining the sequence of marks as I move down each column." Despite her systematic approach accidents appeared, leading the artist to become interested in the dynamic tension between order and disorder. The central focus of her work changed, and she began the new *Ciphers Series* in 2008.

Roniger's process in the *Ciphers Series* is far more intuitive than that of the *Stones Series*. These irregular compositions have a dynamic flow of forms inspired by images she culled from math, science and nature photography books. The process has changed as she builds up the configurations one mark at a time. In the *Ciphers Series* Roniger explores the hidden connections between computation and the inner workings of nature.

Although Roniger is presently concentrating on painting, she has explored a variety of media, such as sculpture, print-making and site-specific installations. Taney Roniger graduated with an MFA from Yale University. She has exhibited at White Columns, NY, Cue Art Foundation, NY, and Momenta Art, Brooklyn, NY among others. Roniger has received fellowships from Yaddo, Stacey Sussman Cavrell Memorial and Richard L. Seyffert Memorial. Roniger also received a Pollack - Krasner Foundation Award in 2008. The artist currently teaches drawing at the School of Visual Art, NY.

Slate Gallery is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 6 pm and other times by appointment.



Slate Gallery

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