

**BARBARA THOMAS*****Floating Color Series***  
**Recent Paintings****Exhibition Dates: September 25-October 24, 2010****Opening Reception: Saturday, September 25, 2010 from 5-8 pm****Artist's Talk: Friday, October 8, 2010 at 7:30; Reception from 6-9 pm**

Slate Gallery begins its fifth season with Barbara Thomas's *Floating Color Series*; an exhibition of recent paintings from this inspired colorist's ongoing exploration of the language of paint's potential through color and light to create a meditative experience for the viewer. Featured are five large abstract oil paintings and one large triptych in which the artist juxtaposes abstract shapes of radiant color in unexpected combinations. The color shapes vary in weight and convey a subtle push/pull tension that could challenge the quality of lightness central to Thomas's compositions but instead achieves balance. In addition, several framed watercolor and ink drawings will be shown, as well as examples from her *Colossal Series*, very small oil on linen triptychs that wittily play on the scale of her larger work. This is Thomas's seventh solo exhibition in New York, and the artist will be present at the opening on Saturday, September 25, 2010 from 5 to 8 pm. The artist will speak about her work on Friday, October 8, 2010 at 7:30 pm.

In Thomas's words, her objective is *to extend color's properties to include those that are usually associated with light*. To achieve this aim, the artist has experimented for many years with her paint formulas and its application. Adding sand to oil paint allows Thomas to create a variety of textures and saturated colors that can appear translucent or opaque, glowing or matte, depending upon the effect she is after. Thomas moves the paint around the canvas with a cloth and her bare hands rather than using traditional brushes. This allows her to push harder into the pigment and control the thickness and thinness of the paint so lightness can shine through color.

Thomas's title, *Floating Color Series*, refers to the artist's intent to create a meditative state through the experience of color; a purpose that aligns Thomas with Color Field painting exemplified by Mark Rothko, Jules Olitski and others. Their interests, as is Ms. Thomas's, were in the lyrical or atmospheric effects of vast expanses of color that fill the canvas, and by suggestion, beyond to infinity. The paintings are large and meant to be seen up close so the viewer is immersed in a color environment. *The New York Times* critic, Phyllis Braff wrote that Barbara Thomas *seizes and controls available illumination...and tend(s) to make the work function simultaneously as a textural experience and as a random visual journey*. Thomas believes deeply in the expressive



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possibilities of color and light within the painting process. It is the artist's fervent wish that the experience of light in color emanating from her paintings will allow the viewer to transcend to a tranquil quiet space.

Barbara Thomas was born in Detroit, MI. She attended the University of Michigan, Arbor, MI and earned her BAE from Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI. She did graduate studies in painting at Indiana University, Bloomington IN before moving to New York City where she has since lived and worked. Thomas has had numerous solo and group shows including at the Tenri Institute, NY; Art in General, NY; and the Triangle Workshop, NY where she enjoyed a residency. Her work is included in many public and private collections.

Slate Gallery was established in 2006 by Kim Vaadia and Martha Henry in Williamsburg, Brooklyn with a commitment to emerging and mid-career artists. Slate Gallery and its artists have been written about in *The New York Times*, *Flash Art International*, *Sculpture Magazine*, *PBS Channel 13*, *Raw Vision* and many other art and cultural publications. Gallery artists have shown at The Smithsonian; Art Gallery of Toronto; Socrates Sculpture Park; Terra Museum of American Art; American Museum of Folk Art; P.S. 1, Detroit Institute of Art; Venice Biennale and many other institutions around the world. Slate Gallery is open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 1 to 6 p.m. and other times by appointment.