

LOIS LAMBERT GALLERY

at Bergamot Station
2525 Michigan Ave E3
Santa Monica, CA 90404

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Maria Guerrero

Assistant Director

maria@loislambertgallery.com

310.829.6990

CAROL COATES

MindsEye

May 11th, 2019 – July 6th, 2019

Opening reception Saturday, May 11th, 6-9pm

SANTA MONICA, CA – Lois Lambert presents mixed media artist Carol Coates and her latest series on perception and choice, *MindsEye*.



MindsEye IX
48" x 72"
Mixed Media on Canvas



MindsEye IV
Mixed Media on Board
34" x 48"

MindsEye developed out of Coates' earlier series Dissonance. Dissonance featured fabricated characters in unsettling situations that stimulated questions of how they could, would, or should respond to their environments and influences. Coates developed this idea further in the MindsEye series by changing the focus from the situation the characters were in, to how an individual's identity is perceived. The subjects of these paintings include people of different ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, races, personalities, and cultures yet are all simultaneously bold and playful, flaunting vibrant expressions and saturated colors. These pieces challenge the viewer to abandon their preconceived judgements about the external qualities of an individual and embrace the unfamiliar through a lens of sensitivity and respect.

This series questions how we see others and asks how we think others might see the world in return. Coates gathers her inspiration from our currently polarized society, where snap decisions from first impressions evolve into concrete judgements about the world and the people in it. Coates challenges the certainty with which these quick judgements are asserted and thus creates awareness. The steampunk eyeglasses depicted in each of Coates's pieces embodies this philosophy as they symbolize a new lens of compassion that Coates encourages the viewer to look through while interpreting her work. These paintings as a whole are an invitation to stop, slow down, and listen to the person beneath the extrema surrounding them, rather than the extrema themselves.



MindsEye VI
Mixed Media on Canvas
48" x 60"

Carol, before she started this series, forged and welded the eye glasses used in these images. Coates begins her compositions with photographs of live models. These images are then digitally augmented into contrived characters. These initial characters either become references for an oil or acrylic painting or the basis of a mixed media work that incorporates the photographs as well as the painting. Coates has mastered a wide variety of skills ranging from drawing and painting to metal smithing, sculpture, darkroom and digital photography. Each of these tools play a part in the composition and execution of her series Mindseye.

Carol Coates received her Master's Degree in Fine Art from the University of Michigan. She was awarded the Bronze Medal in New Media from Fortezza de Basso in Florence, Italy in 2003. Publicly, Coates constructed a mixed media mesh overlay installation at the World Headquarters for Dow Chemicals Co. as well as a 300 ft mural in the Midland County Circuit Courtroom in Michigan. She has also shown in museums and galleries nationwide including the Denver Art Museum, Los Angeles Center for Digital Art, and the Urban Institute of Contemporary Art in Michigan.



MindsEye III
Mixed Media on Canvas
40" x 60"