

Immerse in worlds of color with art by Rachel White



BY ABBY LUBY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The vibrant and colorful paintings by Rachel White are a must-see at the CB Gallery in Katonah. The show, entitled “Chromatic Variations,” reveals a wide range of White’s deft handling of color as each canvas reveals richly hued layers graced with unique textural themes.

Immersive and magnetic, “Chromatic Variation 5” sweeps upward from a glacier of neon orange and thins into strands of blues and reds that seem to defy gravity. There is a palpable urgent heat rising from each gesture before thinning out and evaporating.

In “Chromatic Variation 2” broad blocks of color are solid movements with an interplay of white that offers depth within the frame. Within each swathe

of color are whimsical swirls, surges and swooshes.

There is a sense of wild abandon in White’s work with its pulsating and rhythmic flow of deeper hues to lighter, more transparent tones. But White is well in control. Choosing to use alternative ways of expression other than the paint brush, White mostly uses wide blade taping knives typically used on drywalls.

“I realized I wanted a much wider stroke, a wider edge in order to create a larger color impression,” White explained. “I can make a perfect line using a 16-inch wide taping tool which gives me the opportunity to create a beautiful, crisp edge.”

The edges in the fields of color in “Orange with Blue Line” and “Blue and Yellow” are percussive in their delineation, each geometric form solid, yet within their borders a sensuous fluidity emerges.

White is inspired and informed by color from everyday experiences, such as an early summer run she took.

“I marveled at the color of the sky combined with new leaves,” she recalled. “The deciduous and blood maple trees, the cerulean sky. For me, I took that back to the studio to a blank canvas.”

Over the last year, White has seen her color pallet explode as she became more and more inspired by the natural world around her, especially with the fresh new colors of spring. “Ultimately, there is an element of catharsis when I paint and I’d like to give viewers options of what they are seeing but understand that the viewer brings to it what they will,” she explained.

White’s inspiration is also gleaned from a wide range of artists from abstract expressionist painters Joan Mitchell and Helen Frankenthaler to the installation artist James Turrell and graffiti artist 1010zzzz, to name a few.

“What they have in common is their exploration of color,” she said. “And the light in James Turrell’s installations is magnificent—it transforms the viewers.”

White grew up in the west with her military father and it was her artist mother who initially inspired White to be an artist. As a young adult artist, she was awarded a full tuition scholarship to the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, Michigan followed by a full



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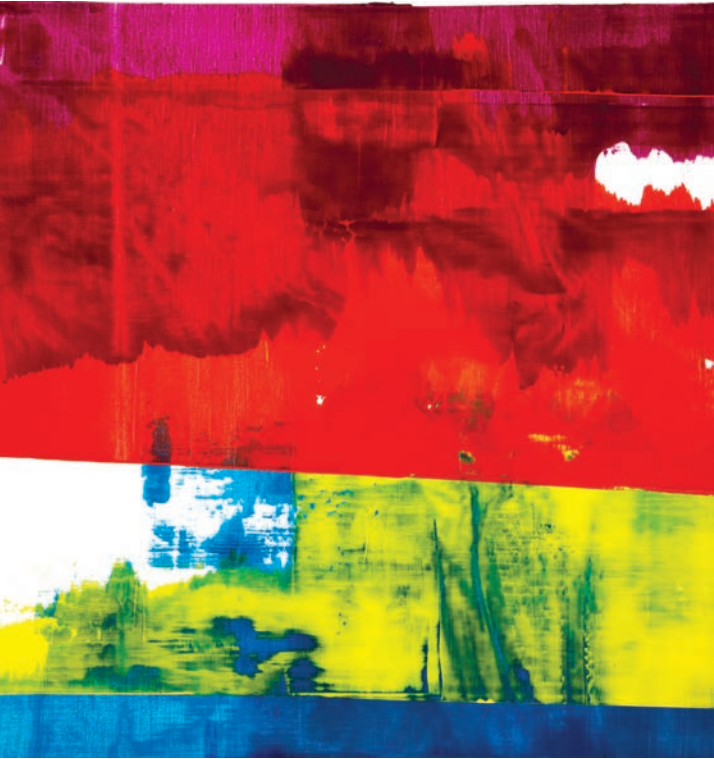
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ARTIST
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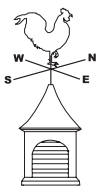
tuition Graduate Fellowship to Alfred University where she focused on sculpture, installation, digital media and print making. She has worked professionally in the luxury beauty marketing business. White lives in Katonah with her husband and two children. To date White said she is so grateful to her Katonah community and the positive response they have had to her work.

“I’m watching how my friends and even people I don’t know have responded to my work and are so supportive,” she said. “I’m thrilled to be able to share my art with them.”

The show is on display through November 28.



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CB Gallery

23 Valley Rd, Katonah, NY 10536
917-520-3234

Walk-In gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment.

For more information, please visit CB Gallery on Facebook and Instagram @cbartgallery or contact Christopher Brescia at artgallerycb@gmail.com or 917-520-3234.

Please contact the gallery to schedule a private tour with the artist.



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