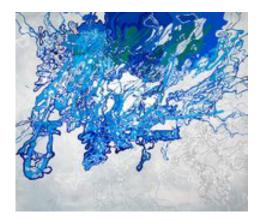
Oona Ratcliffe: Deep Forgetting



Opening Reception

Thursday, March 5th 2009 7-9 pm

Exhibition March 6th - 24th, 2009

Gallery nine 5 is pleased to announce an exhibition of recent work by New York painter Oona Ratcliffe.

Ratcliffe's paintings, seductive frenzies of color and neon line, are constructed in a framework of loose sensuality. Tending towards the acidic and artificial, saturated color is offset by impenetrable flatness, lyrical line deceived by careful manipulation, intricate image belied by an absence of modeling or brush-stroke. Ratcliffe's work is a play of opposites—an endless search for frozen stillness in a world of constant movement and an inherent tension between outside and inside, transparency and opacity, nature and urbanism.

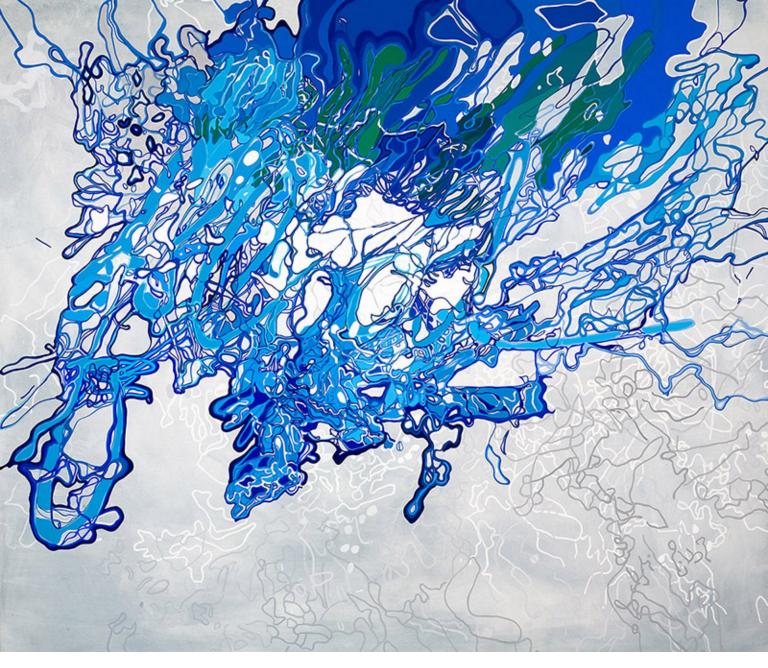
Anchored in the duality of Ratcliffe's paintings are a keen understanding of landscape and a curiosity about words and language. What appears as the topography of a grand expanse of nature can as easily invert to the intimate study of a microcosm. The painting Crystal, 2008, may refer to frost on a windowpane or a lonely patch of arctic islands seen from the air. Ratcliffe also incorporates text into some of her compositions with hidden words that blur the boundaries of signification, suggesting both the transience of language and detritus of talk. These masked words provide respite in the energetic surface of Ratcliffe's work for a moment of the concrete, the recognizable attained in the midst of complexity.

Ratcliffe was born in Bolinas, California and received her MFA from Hunter College in New York City. Ratcliffe has participated in various exhibitions across the U.S., including a solo show at Susan Inglett Gallery, New York and recent group shows at the Morgan Lehman Gallery, New York, Jeff Bailey Gallery, New York, the Bolinas Museum, California, Roberts & Tilton, California, and Geoffrey Young Gallery, Massachusetts. Ratcliffe received a Janet Sloane Residency Award at Yaddo in 2005. She lives and works in New York City.

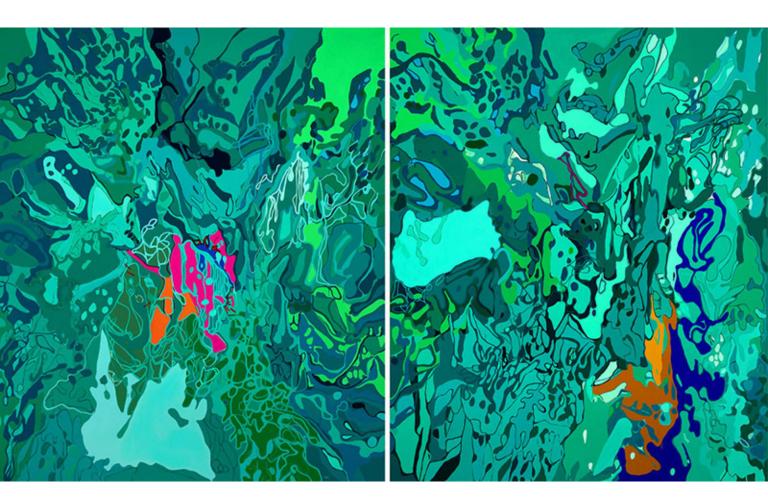


ona Ratcliffe's fields of colorful geometries create the visceral sensation of a story. The meticulous precision of each shape and corresponding color divides the work into individual units whose interplay creates a playground for sensorial narration. By simultaneously combining macro and micro perspectives, Ratcliffe's work creates a landscape of shifting narratives and forms. Her work captures the feeling of a moment made frozen, yet appearing to remain in a constant state of flux. About her work Ratcliffe states, "my paintings map a world where perpetual suspension in the immediate present, the right now, becomes a consumptive mode of being...it is my hope that this work will show its viewers the opulent, sensuous and attractive—but paradoxically ungrounded, shallow and disordered—permutations of such a state." Looking at Ratcliffe's canvases the viewer cannot escape the immediacy of a reaction made dumbfound by inexplicable impact.





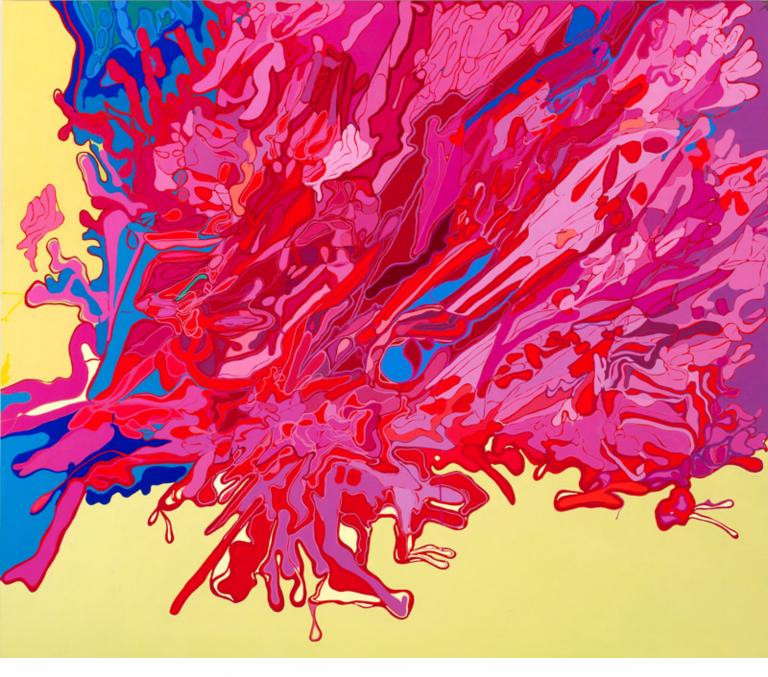
crystal, 72 x 84 in, acrylic on canvas, 2008



heartspring the wreckage, (diptych) 72 x 168 in, acrylic on canvas, 2008



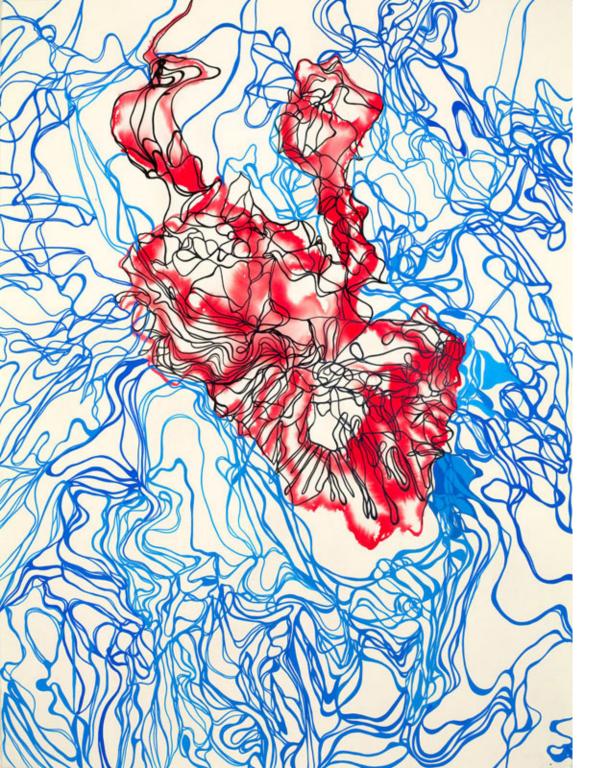
lambasted, 72 x 84 in, acrylic on canvas, 2008-9



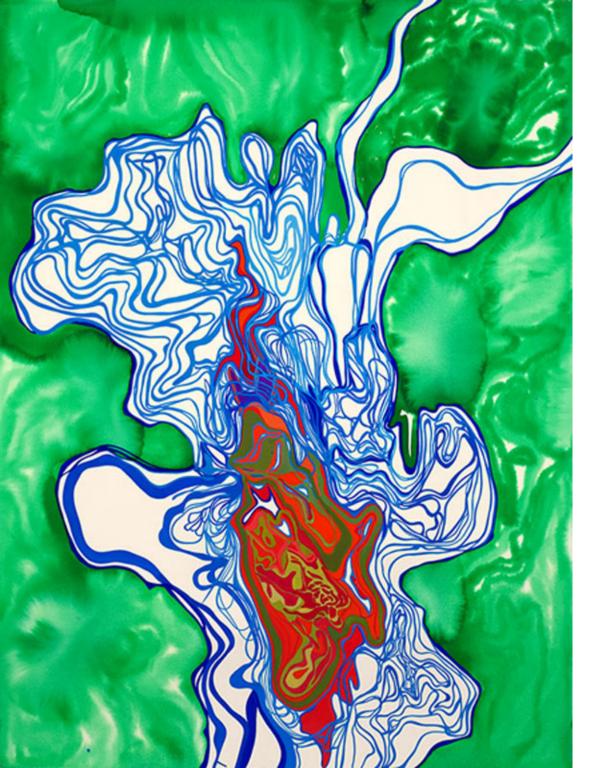
voracious, 72 x 84 in, acrylic on canvas, 2008



hippies in the dust, 72 x 84 in, acrylic on canvas, 2008



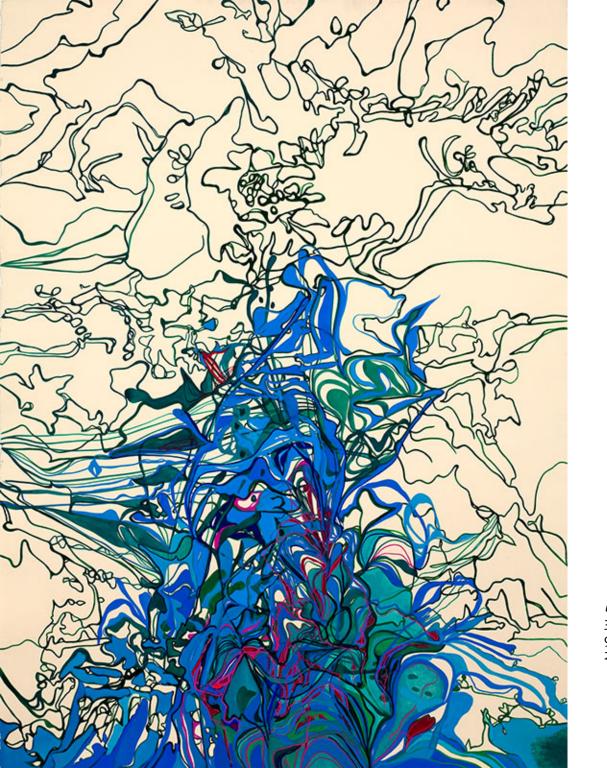
craving the plane 30 X 22 1/2 in gouache on paper 2008



all this and bitten 30 X 22 1/2 in gouache on paper 2008



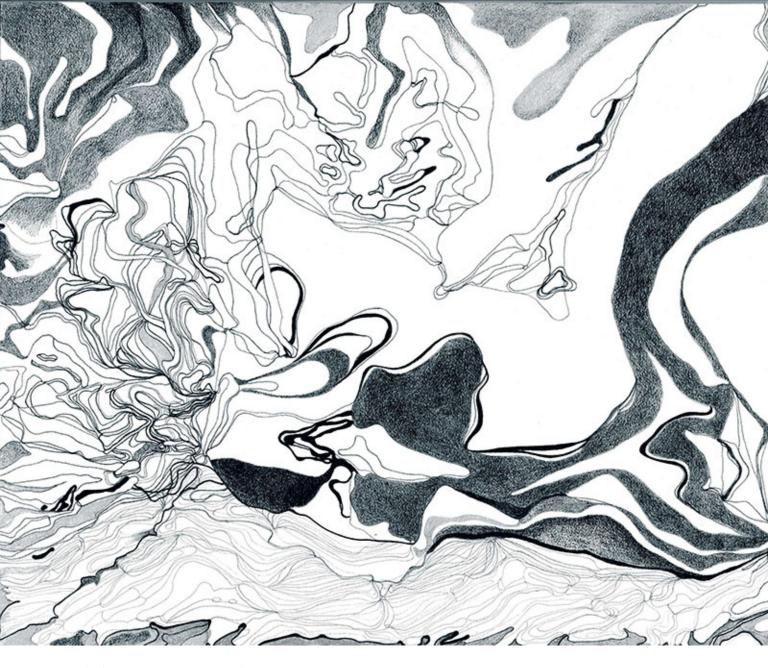
prendergast 30 X 22 1/2 in gouache on paper 2008



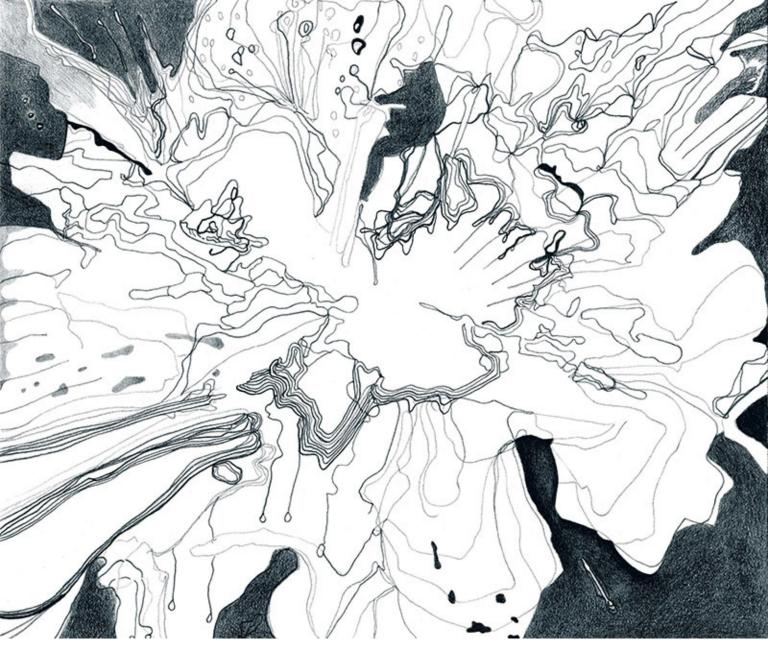
uncoupling 30 x 22 1/2 in gouache on paper 2008



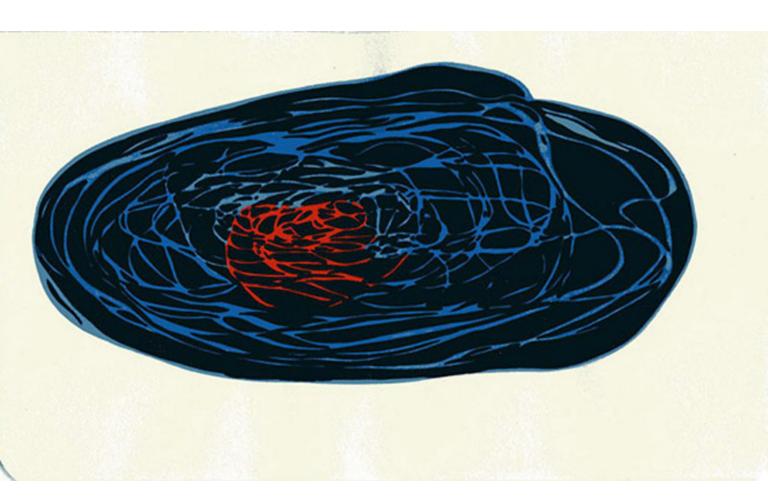
untitled, $8 \times 10^{1/2}$ in, graphite on paper, 2008-9



untitled 2, 8 x 10 1/2 in, graphite on paper, 2008-9



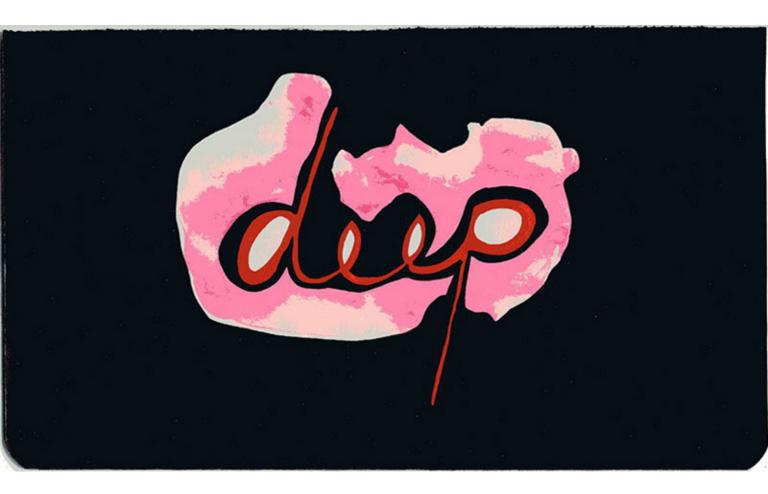
untitled 2, 8 x 10 1/2 in, graphite on paper, 2008-9



forever and forever, 3 $1/4 \times 5 1/2$ in, gouache on paper, 2008



forgetting, 3 $1/4 \times 5 1/2$ in, gouache on paper, 2008



deep, 3 1/4 x 5 1/2 in, gouache on paper, 2008



needles on water, 3 $1/4 \times 5 1/2$ in, gouache on paper, 2008

biography

Ratcliffe was born in Bolinas, California. She received her early artistic education at the Universitas Gadjah Mada in Indonesia and a BA from University of California in Santa Cruz, California. She studied at the Ecole de Louvre in Paris and received an MFA from Hunter College in New York. Ratcliffe has exposed herself to a global milieu of artistic influence. Awarded the Graf Travel Grant from Hunter College and the Textiles Study Grant from the University of Santa Cruz, Ratcliffe incorporates a diversity of cultural expression into sensorial statements into her work. Ratcliffe has participated in various exhibitions across the U.S., including a solo show at Susan Inglett Gallery, New York and recent group shows at the Morgan Lehman Gallery, New York, Jeff Bailey Gallery, New York, the Bolinas Museum, California, Roberts & Tilton, California, and Geoffrey Young Gallery, Massachusetts. Ratcliffe received a Janet Sloane Residency Award at Yaddo in 2005. She lives and works in New York City.