

BASTIENNE SCHMIDT  
RICCO/MARESCA

DECEMBER 11 - JANUARY 15



Bastienne Schmidt is not afraid of beauty, or nature or lyricism, but that is not all her seductive art is about. She also addresses feminine and feminist issues in some of her large-scale paintings and collages that contain limned figures, fabrics, and objects, as well as in her photographs in which she features largely-but not here.

The particular airy, ethereal works in this show, aptly titled "Topography of Quiet," were nearly all painted, drawn or photographed in a warm and watery blue and were resolutely abstract, although nature loomed large in the patterning and suggestive gestures that seemed to both seep and force their way through. We sensed swirling waters, sand formations, and cloud patterns, all driven by winds and magnetism. There was a melodious current running beneath the ultimately uncertain stillness of the title.

The exhibition was complimented by a book of the same title, addressing the idea of topography in some of its actual and metaphorical contexts. Selective mapping, alluding to Schmidt's memories of landscapes experienced in her travels through such regions as Vietnam, Egypt, Japan, and Greece, links feelings and imagination. At the same time, the bleeding blue pigment emerging from the artist's thick handmade paper gives life to her personal topography-or more aptly, archeology.

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