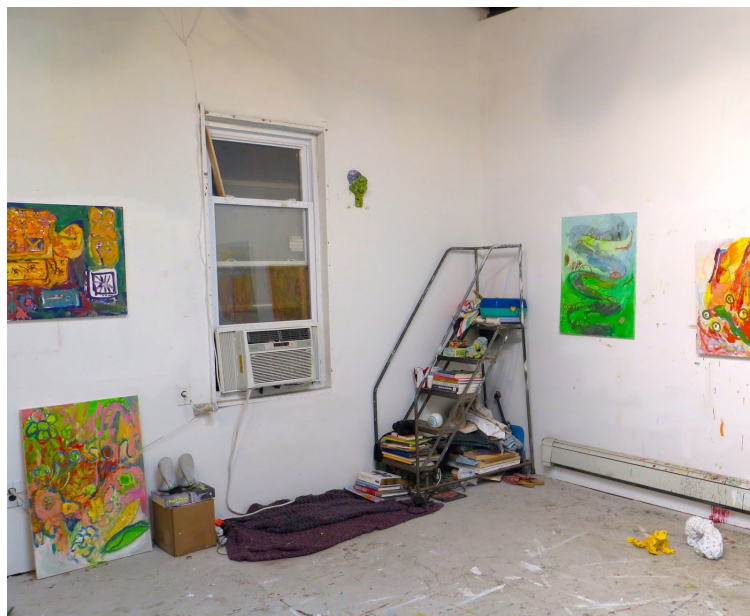


Tanya Leighton

PENCIL IN THE STUDIO

Posted by [Maria Calandra](#)

Adrienne Rubenstein



Before heading to Adrienne Rubenstein's current solo show at [White Columns](#) I went to see the Philip Guston show at Hauser and Wirth. The idea was to pair paintings that were made over fifty years ago with some of the most intriguing paintings of 2016, fresh out of Rubenstein's studio. Both painters are natives of Montreal who eventually landed in New York, but this isn't the only parallel I drew. There is a fearless *oomph* behind their mark-making, and out of that *oomph* (after a lengthy stare) bizarre and amorphous forms begin to appear. The grappling that went on between figuration and abstraction in the 1960's, in Guston's studio, is not only relevant today, but still happening right here in a studio in Brooklyn.

Pencil in the Studio, June 2016

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Adrienne had just landed back in the US from Zurich when I continued my exploration of her work while drawing her studio. Exposing her viewers to a world reinvented with each new panel, I landed on all kinds of trippy things as I took them in: house-sized vegetables, flying peanuts, and texts that slither out of your sight like serpents and make up puzzling Haiku. Her gestures go from fine and succinct to large and sweeping and use light pinks and cherry reds to offset grassy greens and minty blues – reminding me of the Fauves at their best and brightest. She mentioned in our conversation that The Group of Seven had an early influence on her while studying in Canada. I can see that her paintings are making friends with the late landscapes and theoretical sensibilities of Emily Carr. Carr said "Art is art, nature is nature, you cannot improve upon it... Pictures should be inspired by nature, but made in the soul of the artist; it is the soul of the individual that counts." Rubenstein's paintings seem to be channeled directly from her soul and she takes up every bit of space on her panels to share with us that glowing light she has within.



I had The Beach Boys song "Vega-Tables" in my head for most of the visit. It was a slow, soothing, and quiet time together. She remarked on how nice it was to be back in town and in the studio. I remarked on how nice it was to be drawing her paintings. Please go see her show at [White Columns](#) before it comes down on the July 15th. Adrienne is also in a four person show at [Harper's Books](#) (East Hampton) with Kathy Bradford, Al Freeman and Sarah Broman, which she organized, opening August 13. She has a small solo show at [The Pit II](#) (Los Angeles) opening Sept 18, and has curated a show titled 'Fort Greene' for [Venus Los Angeles](#) which opens Sept 17. To see more of her work go here <http://www.adriannerubenstein.ca>.

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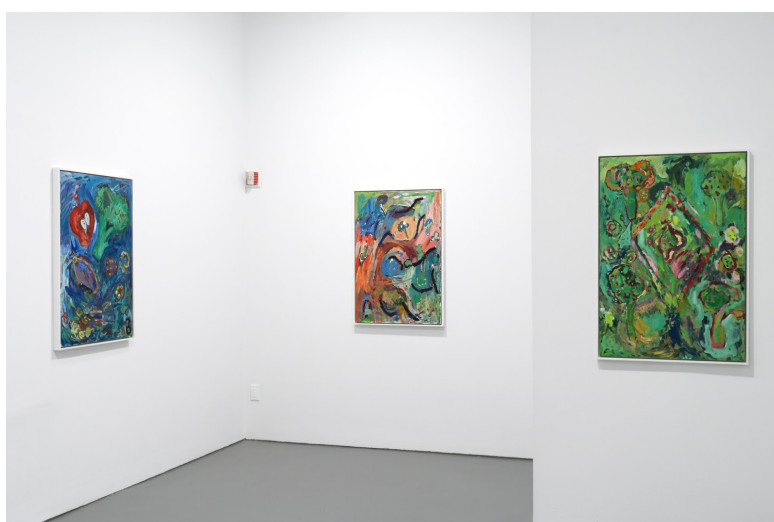
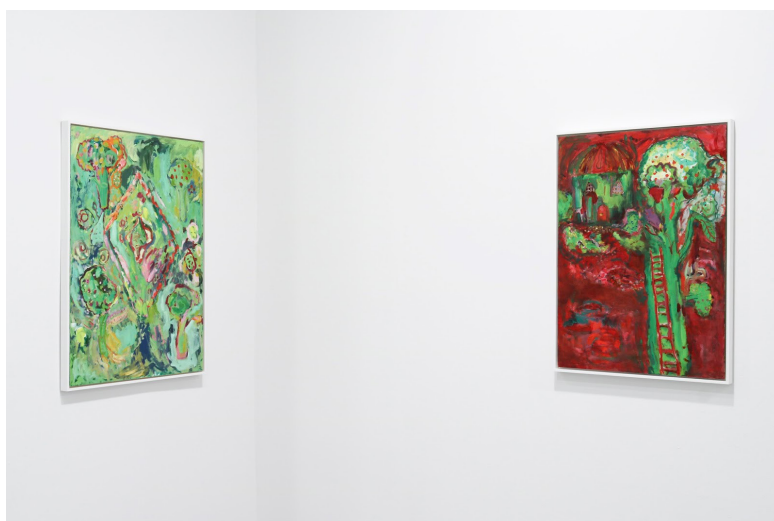
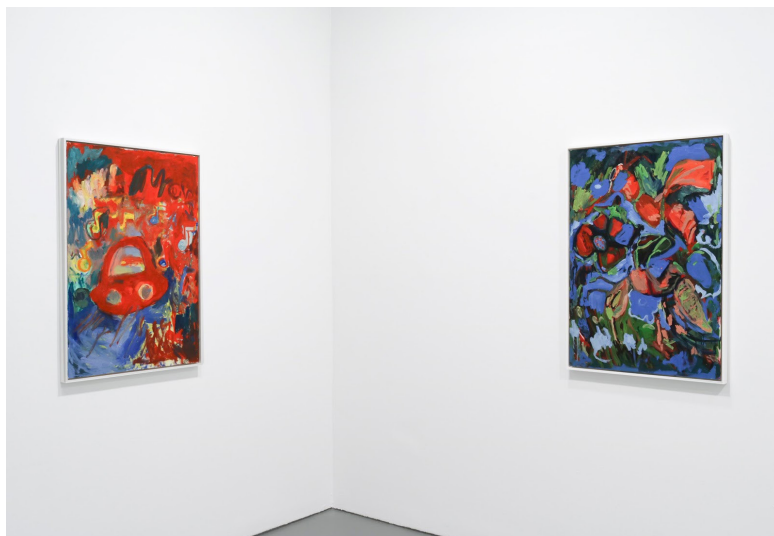


Image Courtesy Of White Columns, NY

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