

Les Femmes Folles

WOMEN IN ART

We Shall Overcome: Susan Lizotte, artist

Susan Lizotte is a featured artist in *Bared: Contemporary Art and Poetry on Bras and Breasts* (ed. Laura Madeline Wiseman, Les Femmes Folles Books 2017) and is exhibiting in the show, *Bared: the art of bras and breasts*, with selections from the book, opening March 3 at The Diamond Shop Gallery in Morgantown, WV. She contributes to Les Femmes Folles We Shall Overcome series with her poignant imagery and words...



No Miracle Is Coming, oil on canvas, 10" x 20", artist photo

I agree the world is in a very turbulent place right now. The United States political election of November 2016 and its unexpected outcome has only added more stress to the political climate. The unpredictability of the new US administration as well as the current problems in Europe, the Middle East and the growing tensions with Russia all combines to create true fear. My art is responding to this. I've been working on a series about the abuse of power titled *Mercury*. I'm currently working on a new map painting, which happens to be about Los Angeles but I feel it represents any major city. I've been thinking about the border wall that Trump wants to build on the Mexico-US borderline and all of the historical and cultural implications of walls and enclosures. Keeping people in and keeping people out, the idea of absolute power to be even able to build such a thing. I've been researching medieval maps and the way that walls/enclosures are shown on those old maps is so fascinating to me in a visual way.



A MAP, oil on canvas, 40" x 60", artist photo

My new map painting is a series of overlays, which for me is a visual metaphor for power and its abuse over centuries, particularly now in the present. The first layer of the painting is a brain based on an MRI scan, in which the right and left sides of the brain are reversed on the image. Painted on the right side of the first brain layer is the word left in block letters, a way to show the viewer all is not what it may seem. A brain feels universal, something all humans possess and links us together. The brain is painted over with a translucent layer of paint on which is painted a map of the city of Los Angeles. On top of the city map is an overlay in paint of a medieval era-inspired wall and its outline in white. It is titled A MAP in the top corner and the title is painted to resemble old calligraphy. The overlay of a wall idea borrowed from a medieval map becomes in paint almost pop art with the high graphic quality of the lines. Who belongs inside the enclosure, does it become a domain of the wealthy? Or is it the polar opposite? The idea of a city, any city, and its people being segregated or contained is a frightening thought today. How do we tell our children what is going on when we ourselves are unsure? I've also made another painting titled No Miracle Is Coming, which shows an uninhabited rocky landscape with a suspended burning log overhead. The idea behind it is to show the absurdity of what we think versus what we know, because at the end of the day we really only know what we are told. We have to be very committed to find out all of the truth in what happens behind the scenes. Now, more than ever we must work together and overcome.

-Susan Lizotte

<https://www.susanlizotte.com>