

KAY ROSEN

*BLINGO*

May 16 – June 28, 2014

Opening Reception: Friday, May 16, 6-8PM

Sikkema Jenkins & Co. is pleased to present *Blingo*, an exhibition of new works by Kay Rosen on view from May 16 – June 28, 2014.

For almost four decades Kay Rosen has applied the visual strategies of color, spacing, composition, material, elements of graphic design, and scale to written language to make drawings, collages, paintings, editions, and wall installations that challenge the way that we read and understand language.

The current body of work – consisting of acrylic gouache paintings on watercolor paper, paintings on similarly proportioned canvases, and one wall installation – represents a shift in the way that Rosen considers the relationship between the text and the support. In previous paintings and drawings, the size and shape of the canvas or paper conformed to the size and shape of the text. Conversely, the texts in her wall installations were customized to fit the available space. For the works in *Blingo*, the text and space, content and site (including horizontal, vertical, and diagonal orientation, height and width, corners and edges), are treated equally, and are more integrated. For example, in *Rust Colored Belt* the reddish-brown words of the title are painted horizontally across the middle of the paper, suggesting a horizon line of a decaying steel landscape as well as a fashion accessory around the girth of a body. In both scenarios – terrain and torso – the support and the text are mutually dependent.

The wall painting *Monuments* is composed of the word “obelisk” painted vertically floor-to-ceiling intersecting at the letter “s” with the word “odalisk” stretching horizontally across the wall. The careful composition of the two words together establishes a parity between the vertical and horizontal texts, as Rosen explains: “Vertical does not trump horizontal; nor upright, prostrate. Male does not trump female. Sculpture does not trump painting. The representation of both ODALISKS and OBELISKS throughout the history of art is equally iconic and illustrious. Any perceived hierarchy is supplied by the viewer.”

A catalogue with a text written by the artist will accompany the exhibition.

Born in Corpus Christi, Texas and based in the Midwest, Kay Rosen turned her attention to art after her early academic study of language. Since then her work has been exhibited in numerous museums and institutions both nationally and internationally, including The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, where she had a retrospective exhibition in 1998-99; The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; MASS MOCA, North Adams, Massachusetts; the Whitney Museum of American Art in both the 2000 and 1991 (as part of Group Material’s “AIDS Timeline”) Biennials; The Art Institute of Chicago; the Museum of Modern Art; Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver; the Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein, as well as in solo gallery exhibitions across the U.S. and Europe.

Upcoming projects include a solo exhibition at Galerie Zilberman in Istanbul, Turkey from May 9 to July 28, 2014. In addition, following its 2013 debut at the Kunsthille Bielefeld in *Auf Zeit*, Rosen’s wall installation, *Wanderfull*, will be included in the upcoming group exhibition, *Score*, at the Tang Museum in Saratoga Springs opening July 5 .

Rosen has taught at The School of the Art Institute for 20 years. She is the recipient of three National Endowment for the Arts fellowships, an Anonymous Was A Woman grant, an S.J. Weiler Fund award, and the 2014 Artist Award for Distinguished Body of Work by the College Art Association. A book about her work, *Kay Rosen: AKAK*, was published by Regency Art Press, New York, in 2009.

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**ART FAIRS:**

JUNE 19 – 22

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