

Volume 2, 2015-2016



SHS

SENIOR HONORS STUDIO

EST. 2014



NYU CC

Dialectic Recollection



Annie Carroll
95.4.16, 2015
Oil on Canvas
60 x 40 inches



Tritia Lee
Untitled (Bowery), 2015
Charcoal on wool and cotton silk
65 x 34 inches

Author William Gibson said, “time moves in one direction, memory another.”¹ Yet, how separated are our memories from daily life? How often in our present realities do we slip into moments and emotions of the past? *Dialectic Recollection* is an exploration into the past that pulls at us and the emotions it elicits. In their work, Annie Carroll and Tritia Lee have each imposed their own process to understand this cycle of memory. By harnessing personal experiences and transmitting them to tangible representations, their works become physical manifestations of their conversations with memory.

As a painter, Annie Carroll thrives off the challenge of showing the importance of oil on canvas in today’s digitally-dominated world. Based on personal narratives and found photographs, her work fuses figurative elements with intriguing distortions. Finding this newly abstract aesthetic has made her contemplation of nostalgia and loss a universal narrative. Through an introspective examination of the past, she reconciles the willful magnetic force that draws us to indulge in certain memories.

Tritia Lee’s work can be categorized neither as painting nor sculpture. Her unique aesthetic is the result of rubbing charcoal onto fabrics when laid against certain chosen surfaces that range from corners of rooms to the ground in a public park. These rubbings are made on sites that the artist has previously experienced and chosen purposefully for the significance of the emotional attachments found there. The final results are tied as equally to chance as they are to her control: Lee will not know the outcome until she displays the fabric over her hand-crafted wooden beams. She evokes the ephemerality of memory through her materials, which she sews together or drapes off the wooden frame upon which they hang. She constructs new architectural spaces created by emotions from memories, and by juxtaposing structure and organic, has found a raw and delicate aesthetic.

Carroll and Lee are visual storytellers, translating emotions into tangible records of paint and canvas, and charcoal and material. Together, their works enter into a dialectic conversation about the emotions elicited from the processes of remembering and forgetting. While it is the emotional that drives each artist’s process, the triggers for those emotions are juxtapositions in themselves: Carroll recalls intangible memory, Lee begins with the physical. They invite viewers to reflect upon their own present realities and nostalgic pasts when considering this dichotomy.

This show reconciles the paradox presented in Gibson’s quote by showing that our past memories and present lives are intrinsically intertwined. Our memories are layered one upon another, building themselves into our consciousness and influencing our actions. These works investigate the past in order to actively address and illuminate the enigmatic cycle of memory that is present in our everyday lives.

Dialectic Recollection presents all new works made by Annie Carroll and Tritia Lee, a testament to their dedication to this personal project.

¹ Gibson, William. *Distrust That Particular Flavor*. London: Penguin, 2012.