

New Paintings by
Toby Schneier

“JUXTAPPOSITION”

Curated by Regina Keller Gil

Great Neck Arts Center

December 3, 2006 - January 6, 2007



Beach Ball, 42" x 42" 5200



Sabbath Lunch, 60" x 48" 5000

The oil-on-canvas paintings on exhibit in "Juxtaposition," our new exhibit featuring the work of emerging artist, Toby Gotesman Schneier, reveals Ms. Schneier's playful eye and original take on the items and people she sees every day. Her exuberant playfulness as she revels in the contrasts between objects, especially when they create a poetic or ironic counterpoint of impressions and ideas makes her work interesting and even fun to view. Her sensuous use of color, organic shapes and kinetic line reinforce the overall impression of a new Fauvist.

Schneier, the child of Holocaust survivors (her parents were liberated from Auschwitz), was born and raised in Oregon. That statement implies a world of serious upbringing and an awareness of the darker side of human nature. The world that Toby Schneier reveals in her paintings is informed by a vitality and a life affirming attitude of hope and joy; perhaps a reaction to all that she knew had happened to her parents.

Toby Schneier is an extremely dynamic self-taught painter. Her paintings inspire thoughts of the French Fauves (Wild Beasts) painters, in particular André Derain and Henri Matisse. Like the Fauves, Schneier's canvas are filled with luminous color patches and brushwork accentuated by broad brush strokes. Schneier's subject matter may appear to be conventional, mostly landscapes and still life, but its underlying content is not. She favors unconnected and often jarring juxtapositions of objects interspersed on her canvas: *Wedding Veil with Lemons*; *Louis Vuitton* with *Guldens mustard*. Schneier's approach to painting is intuitive, spontaneous and expressionistic. The results are complex and beautiful as they engage the viewer in discovering unexpected poetry and poignancy in the juxtaposition of simple images.

Georgia Vahue
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