CYNTHIA CORBETT GALLERY

KLARI REIS (b. USA)



Klari Reis is an American painter and sculptor whose artwork reflects her focus on the complex inner workings of the human body and the natural world—constantly interpreting magnified, electron microscope images of biological forms in vivid colours. Her works are imaginative recreations and curious inquiries into our place in the universe; proposing new ways of seeing and understanding our natural environment through painting and sculpture, and testing the boundaries of logical systems. Responding to biological technologies and the mysteries of life that lie beneath our skin, Reis's work is an expression of an ongoing curiosity about the deeper forces at the core of our physical selves.

Having initiated her career as a painter, she began painting cellular images as a way of understanding the occurrences within her own body, including a battle with Crohn's disease. In that time, Reis recounts being hospitalized and seeing her own blood cells reacting to different medications under a microscope: an experience that had an everlasting impact on her visual language, and what she would become known for throughout her career.

Her earlier works are characterized by cellular forms that represent the tense, hopeful, yet often controversial implications of bioengineering, bridging the scientific and artistic perspectives to promote a combined vision. Mostly bearing the titles of modern prescription drugs, they are at once optimistic and joyful through her mastery of colour and configuration — yet can also seem unpredictable and intrusive.

Subsequently, Klari Reis would invent a new medium, consisting of epoxy polymer (a form of liquid plastic derived from crude oil) with many added ingredients including pure pigment, acrylic and other materials. The effect is significant to the artist's work, evoking artificiality because of its smooth sheen and brilliant colour. The finish is touchable, durable, and reflective.

When observing one of her works, it is possible for the viewer to be drawn in by his or her own reflection.

The procedure and materials necessary to execute the paintings are consistent with the artist's intent to integrate science and art. Many works are produced on aluminium panels, suggesting a clinical, yet high-tech backdrop. Epoxy polymer is a toxic material upon application, and its use requires the artist to wear a fume mask, eye protection, boots, barrier creams (on any potentially exposed skin), latex gloves and disposable clothing. Once dried, the epoxy polymer is non-toxic and virtually impenetrable.

In her more recent *Petri Dish Installations*, each painting is moulded and set in layers. At a certain point in its process, the picture is able to paint itself, and the artist is no longer in control.

Klari Reis lives and works in San Francisco, California. She holds a Master of Fine Arts (2004) and an Associate Research Fellowship (2005) from the City and Guilds of London Art School. Her artwork has been widely exhibited and displayed in the USA, Italy, Germany, Spain, Scotland, England, China, and United Arab Emirates.

Klari Reis's work has been included in the collections of Stanford University, Google, The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, Merck Pharmaceuticals, Genentech, and The Gates Foundation. Her work is also held in the public collections of the MEG centre in Oxford, England, Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, The Peninsula Hotel, The Pullman Group, Theo Randall restaurant in London's InterContinental Hotel, Standard Life Investments in Bristol and London, Next World Capital, 200 Brannan in San Francisco, Morley Fund Management in London, Actelion in San Francisco, Stanford Hospital, Elan Pharmaceuticals, and Cytokinetics in San Francisco.

Her paintings are in the private collections of contemporary art patrons worldwide and have been featured in international publications such as The Art of England, The New York Times, GQ Australia, Wired UK, Nature Chemical Biology, Elle Magazine, Time Out London, Artweek San Francisco, Giornale del Medico in Italy, The London Times, The London Independent, Scottish Field Magazine in Glasgow, Frieze Magazine and the Financial Times in London, the San Francisco Business Times, BBC1, CNN Business Report, CBS News and the Discovery Channel.

Klari Reis is represented internationally by Cynthia Corbett Gallery.