

# MATTEAWAN GALLERY

Krista Svalbonas

A Habitation and a Name

June 14 - July 6, 2014

Opening reception Saturday, June 14, 6-9 pm

Matteawan Gallery is pleased to present Krista Svalbonas: A Habitation and a Name. The exhibition runs through July 6, 2014 and features drawings and paintings on industrial felt. The felt works are based on the vernacular architecture of barns in Pennsylvania, the artist's home state. Svalbonas' drawings are from a recent project (Project 8) focusing on the architecture of a group of Section 8 apartment buildings in Jersey City, NJ. Both bodies of work relate to the artist's interest in architecture, space, and displacement.

Krista Svalbonas is fascinated by the language of spatial relationships and by the effect of architectural form and structure on the psychology of the human environment. Her work begins with extensive photographic documentation of her architectural subjects. For her Project 8 series, Svalbonas photographed The Brunswick Estates in Jersey City, NJ, where she used to live. The series *In the Presence of Memory* explores the architectural vestiges of agriculture – the barns of rural Pennsylvania. For the past year she has been traveling throughout Pennsylvania to document agricultural structures as they stand: abandoned, repurposed, or – occasionally – still in use. Using industrial felt (manufactured in Pennsylvania) as a substrate, she silk-screens images of architectural details of the barns using industrial pigments such as steel, iron and copper. The artist paints each piece using oil and cold wax and cuts into the felt, echoing the empty spaces of the often-dilapidated structures she has photographed. Svalbonas then “patches” these cut areas with colored sections of serigraph negatives, mimicking the splashes of incongruous color on the weathered surfaces that have been repaired again and again. The colors, forms and shapes of the felt panels all refer to the original structures; even in their abstraction, these works document the vanishing rural industrial landscape.

Krista Svalbonas' work has been included in solo, two-person, and group exhibitions throughout the United States. In January 2014 she completed a large-scale site specific installation at the Ise Cultural Foundation in New York. Her work has been shown at Dairy Center of the Arts in Boulder, Colorado; Kenise Barnes Fine Art in Larchmont, New York; Watchung Art Center in New Jersey; The Painting Center, Trestle Gallery, Virdian Gallery and BWAC in New York; Tubac Center For The Arts, Arizona; and the George Segal Gallery, Montclair, New Jersey. In 2008 Svalbonas was included in a two-year traveling group exhibition in Latvia. Svalbonas was recently awarded a New Arts Program Residency and Exhibition in Kutztown, PA, and she participated in a Cooper Union Artist residency in 2012. Her work is in the permanent collection of the Cesis Art Museum in Cesis, Latvia, as well as in numerous private collections. She holds a BFA degree in Photography and Design from Syracuse University and an interdisciplinary MFA degree in Photography, Sculpture and Design from SUNY New Paltz.