

MATTEAWAN
GALLERY

Susan Walsh

Only the Sun Can Prove That I Am Useful

September 13 – October 5, 2014

Opening reception Saturday, September 13, 6-9 pm

Matteawan Gallery is pleased to present Susan Walsh: *Only the Sun Can Prove That I Am Useful*. The exhibition takes its title from the words inscribed on a 16th-century sundial, and includes recent photographs and videos whose imagery is created with thread and shadows cast by the sun.

Susan Walsh's *Marking Time* series evolved from an unexpected occurrence in her studio. One January day at 3:00 pm, she noticed the precise and evocative intersection of an object (thread), the sun, and a sheet of white paper. This particular angle of the sun in her studio occurs only from the winter solstice to the spring equinox. Walsh captured this moment in time in photographs by documenting the thread and its shadow. She compares the photographs to drawings: "The sun draws delicate shadow lines in collaboration with my random placement of thread. Each piece depicts one moment in time, when the sinking winter sun creates long shadows; both thread and sun are the charcoal, ink, pencil."

Threads and their shadows are also featured in video works that seem to depict a line drawing in pencil until the elements of the drawing begin to move. In one video, pieces of thread are added to a drawing, creating an all-over pattern. In another, pieces of thread are slowly blown off the paper until they leave the frame of the video. Walsh's videos reveal how her photographs are staged, but they are distinct works of their own, blurring the lines between photography, drawing, and film.

Other works in the exhibition are not dependent on the angle of the sun in winter but are still very much about the relationship of sun, shadow, and thread. Walsh has created sculptures composed of wood panels, paint, graphite, and nails that loosely reference sundials. She uses a nail set at the angle of the latitude of her studio as the gnomon, or pointer on a sundial, but instead of one pointer facing true north, she sets multiple pointers in different directions. She then places the sculptures in the western sun in her studio, and photographs the shadows. The moment in time becomes a photographic "drawing". In all her work, Walsh is not so much interested in reading the exact time, but in drawing attention to a lyrical moment in time.

Susan Walsh has exhibited nationally, with numerous exhibitions in the Hudson Valley, New York City and Chicago. Her work was also included in *OutWest at Plan B*, curated by Harmony Hammond at Evolving Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Recent exhibitions include *The Small Works Show*, Garrison Art Center, Garrison NY and *Homecoming* at KUBE Gallery, Beacon, NY. In 2013 she was a resident at DRAWinternational artist residency in Caylus, France, where she created a site-specific installation in a 12th century historic building. Walsh received an MFA in photography from University of Illinois, Chicago. She currently lives in Beacon, New York.

Gallery hours are Friday and Saturday from 12-5 and Sunday 12-4. For additional information please contact Karlyn Benson at info@matteawan.com or 845-440-7901.