

# MATTEAWAN GALLERY

Susan Walsh

Only Mark the Bright Hours

February 18 – April 2, 2017

Opening reception Saturday, February 18, 6-8 pm

Matteawan Gallery is pleased to present *Only Mark the Bright Hours*, a solo exhibition of recent work by Susan Walsh featuring drawing, photography, and sculpture. This is Walsh's second solo show at the gallery. Her work was also included in the group exhibitions *Timelines* in 2013 and *The Flat File Show* in 2016. There will be a reception for the artist on Saturday, February 18 from 6-8 pm.

Susan Walsh explores light, time, place, and memory through a variety of mediums. She is a keen observer of her environment, and her work is a response to the changes she notices in sunlight and other natural phenomena. Walsh's earliest series in the show is *Marking Time*, which uses photography to record shadows cast by thread on her studio table in the bright winter sun. The resulting images resemble drawings more than photographs and Walsh prints them on drawing paper to enhance this effect. More than simply capturing shadows on paper these works depict a specific place and a moment in time when the sinking sun creates long shadows. These "drawings" can only be made from January to March.

Inspired by the *Marking Time* series, Walsh has experimented with other ways to combine light and shadow in her work. *Only the Sun Can Prove That I Am Useful* is an ongoing series of sculptures on wood panel with paint, graphite, and nails that loosely reference early sundials. These works contain multiple nail pointers, or gnomons, placed in different directions. Some works reference visits to DIA: Beacon in which Walsh has noted the GPS coordinates of her travels between favorite artists' works. The nails are the beginning and end points as she traces her steps in the museum with winding lines of graphite. Walsh photographs the panels and prints one version of each on drawing paper. Her photographs capture a specific moment in time when sunlight hits the nails and creates shadows that merge with her graphite drawings. Walsh plays with our perceptions of two and three-dimensional space by photographing objects that look like lines drawn on paper.

For the past year Walsh has been experimenting with a new process. In the *Wave Drawing* series she draws a straight line of gouache across the center of a piece of paper and holds it down in shallow water on the shore of the ocean to let the waves wash over it. In these works the perpetual motion of waves records her location and a specific moment in time. Each drawing is different because of the distinctive nature of the body of water itself, from the clarity of the water to the force of the waves. Walsh says of this work: "While each wave marks its particular existence through its contact with the materials, the series as a whole conveys the eternal breath of the tide."

Walsh's most recent works are sculptural panels painted in rich colors that combine graphite line drawings, nails, and thread. In the *Untethered Drawings* white threads emerge from a dark blue field and cast very little shadow. For Walsh, this work references one's internal time, "the floating time, in the middle of the night, when one wakes up and instinctively guesses actual time." In *Only Mark the Bright Hours* Walsh refers to the sundial, this time with thread and graphite on wood panels painted bright yellow. The straight graphite lines contrast with loose linear thread lines. The thread shadow lines create a constant energy and remind us of the incremental changes in our landscape caused by sunlight.

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Susan Walsh has exhibited throughout the US and in France. Her work was the subject of a solo exhibition at the Center for Digital Arts, Peekskill in 2015. In 2016 her work was included in group exhibitions at Artspace, New Haven, CT; Silvermine Art Center, New Canaan, CT; Schema Projects, Brooklyn, NY, and Matteawan Gallery, Beacon, NY. In 2014 she had a solo show at Matteawan Gallery and her work was featured in the Aqua Art Fair in Miami, FL. She has been included in group shows at the Katonah Museum of Art, Katonah, NY; Plan B Evolving Arts in Santa Fe, NM; Northern Illinois University Art Museum, DeKalb, Illinois; the Garrison Art Center, Garrison, NY; KUBE, and Bau Gallery, Beacon, NY. In 2013, she was a resident artist at DRAWinternational in Caylus, France, where she created a site-specific installation. Walsh received an MFA from the University of Illinois, Chicago, and a BA from Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL. She lives in Beacon, NY.

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