

## *Art Viewer*

### Beverly Semmes and Larissa Bates at Topless

June 23rd, 2016



**Artists:** Beverly Semmes and Larissa Bates

**Venue:** Topless, Rockaway Beach, New York, US

**Date:** June 11 – 25, 2016

Topless is pleased to inaugurate its 3rd season with Larissa Bates & Beverly Semmes, a dual exhibition opening Saturday, June 11th, 2016.

Larissa Bates' intimate and jewel-like paintings are faceted reflections of crossing complex histories. The intricacies and details adapted from past, present and some sort of fantasy; simultaneously the artist's and civilization's own. The scenes segue between still life, landscape, and portraiture, cultivating the curiosities of and between cultural commodity and cultural identity. Her gold-leafed and gouache works ensnare the viewer in their richness, simultaneously dazzling with their unadulterated preciousness and disturbing with a darker intensity.

Beverly Semmes' *Scratch* is a large-scale new work configured specifically for this summer's space. A hovering form on the wall and a long velvet strip of gold squares bisects the room. Sinuous, meandering sleeves of blue and green become like paint lines, vines that sit on top of the golden length. The source of this river / sunset / flag / butterfly / flood of plush, saturated color appears to come out from the wall as it snakes across the floor and pushes onwards. Semmes is best known for large-scale fabric works that over recent years have become increasingly abstract. This current piece integrates aspects of both a dress and a landscape, in which symbolic and formal elements combine, and the recognizable shades off into otherness.

Beverly Semmes (B. 1958 Washington, D.C.) lives and works in New York, NY. Among Semmes' most recent solo exhibitions include *Rabbit Hole* at Susan Inglett Gallery (2016), New York, NY; *Handle* at Galerie Lefebvre & Fils, Paris, FR; *FRP* at Galerie Bugdahn und Kaimer, Dusseldorf, DE; and *Opener 27 Beverly Semmes: FRP*, which has traveled to the Tang Museum, Saratoga Springs, NY; Weatherspoon Art Museum, Greensboro, NC; and Faulconer Gallery at Grinnell College, IA. Semmes work has been reviewed and featured in such sources as Artforum, The New Yorker, The New York Times, BOMB, and Art in America among many others. An extensive index of Semmes' practice, "Beverly Semmes FRP", organized by Ian Berry was published last year by The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery.