

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

7811 GALLERY PRESENTS

BEYOND: DEBORAH BLUM, MARISA MURROW & SARAH SCHWARTZ



BEYOND: Deborah Blum, Marisa Murrow and Sarah Schwartz

opens to the public Thursday, February 8, 2024 from 6:30 – 9pm

at 7811 Gallery, 7811 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90046

7811 Gallery proudly presents *BEYOND*: Deborah Blum, Marisa Murrow and Sarah Schwartz. Opening reception: Thursday, February 8, 2024 from 6:30 – 9pm.

Three female artists, who live and work in the Los Angeles area, share large-scale paintings that ask questions and inspire us to connect to things beyond ourselves.

They ask: What provokes and inspires us in archetypal and challenging ways? What pushes us to reach beyond ourselves and connect to the world, society and nature?

These artists push the boundaries of self-expression to show us, not only what is in their hearts and souls, but what sparks their imagination, inspires and challenges them. Their work illustrates a need to go beyond the confines of home and security to find peace, and a longing to connect to elements BEYOND that ignite their soul and spirit.

Deborah Blum presents a series of harmonious, uplifting, semi-abstract, oil and acrylic paintings that display her connection to elements beyond herself. Blum's affinity to the universe, nature, and planet earth resonates for the viewer in the dancing whirls, flowing, spear-like brush strokes, and vivid blue-green, pink and earth-toned colors. Blum paintings present abstractions from forms we witness and live with, such as trees, mountains, the ocean, and the earth. They capture the power of her longing to manifest her reverence for these natural forces. She uses a palette knife and wild, untamed brush strokes to blend vibrant, analogous colors and distill the essence of what she connects to beyond herself. The pieces, painted while parenting her young children, express a renewed relationship with the powerful, life-giving forces of the universe.

Director and curator at 7811 Gallery, Deborah Blum is an artist, gallery director, curator, filmmaker and educator. She studied oil painting, watercolor and photography at Rhode Island School of Design, Fine Art at Brown University, and life drawing at the Brentwood Art Center. She earned a B.A. in English from UCLA, trained as a Waldorf teacher and taught in Waldorf schools, using art to teach. She leads art workshops that incorporate meditation and spirituality. Blum has exhibited her work at the Laemmle NoHo theater, Art in the Park, Cafe Latte, Waldorf schools, the French Cultural Center in Nairobi, List Art Center, and many other locations. Her paintings and collages are part of many private and school collections. She has published illustrations, and a painting in this exhibit, *The Tree of Life*, was featured on the cover of a literary magazine.

Marisa Murrow, born in Los Angeles, has traveled the world exploring art and culture. India and Indonesia left lasting impressions on her creative path. In this exhibit, she presents luscious gardens and tranquil waters that transport the viewer to a dreamlike state of escape. She developed the swimming pool series when longing to go on vacation during the lockdown. Further expanding on the series when she was commissioned to paint a Collector's garden and pool. Most recently, while an artist in residence at the Vermont Studio Center, near a river in rainy New England, she continued to explore the theme of water and swimming pools, experimenting with fluid paint and stain on unprimed canvas. The large-scale paintings evoke mystery and a longing for the sensual. Water reflects and hides. It refreshes but can be dangerous. It lies beyond ourselves, but also within us. Murrow plays with these subtle tensions and contrasts. She works with skill, yet allows the work to take on a life of its own. She gives voice to her passions using color, tone, and a willingness to play with the uncontrollable in art. Figures dip toes in water, and we long to venture with them into the beyond.



Marisa Murrow received a Bachelors of Fine Arts from the Rhode Island School of Design and has exhibited her work at the Laguna Art Museum, California Club, Jonathan Club, LA Design Center, Bergamot Station, Schomberg Gallery, the McLean Gallery and many galleries, museums and cultural spaces around California. Her work is sought after by collectors and is part of numerous private collections worldwide.

Sarah Schwartz paints and crafts small and medium-sized paintings and collages that challenge us to enjoy life and embrace contradictions. The interaction between line, color, form and texture encourages us to dive into the world and skate on top. Schwartz uses shapes, lines, and blocks of harmonizing and contrasting colors to make order out of chaos. But a little chaos always remains, in a nod to our inability to control life. The paintings, created in the moment using a flow process, inspire wonder and curiosity and reveal unspoken questions and answers. The work offers perspective on the unexpected rhythm of life and communicates joy in the process of creating. The work feels centered and grounded. Elements of surprise reveal greater mechanics at work than we might expect. The artist's ability to hold and present contradictions has earned her a loyal following. She connects to our longing for adventure, as she ventures beyond herself to dive into the unknown. Her work revels in joy, the ability to surprise ourselves, and the unexpected pleasure this brings. It also challenges us with its honesty.

Sarah Schwartz has a degree in architecture from Cornell University and now works in product design. She is currently a Senior Product Designer at Apple. She creates her artwork in a home studio. Over the past few years, she has been featured in interviews with VoyageLA, Bold Journey, and Artist Closeup. Schwartz has exhibited her work at The Art Lounge Collective, The Beverly Hills Art Show, The Other Art Fair by Saatchi, The Mondrian Magic Box Exhibit, The Artist Tree and Crescent Tree Gallery. Her work can be found in numerous private collections.

About 7811 Gallery

7811 Gallery launched in May 2023 in a spacious location on Melrose Avenue in West Hollywood. Committed to representing local and emerging artists, 7811 Gallery also offers art workshops and hosts cultural events.