

## SHERRY FRUMKIN GALLERY

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Wed – Sat 12 to 6

### Doni Silver Simons

#### ...lines...

*The familiar tally bundle of four vertical strokes joined by one diagonal which Doni Silver Simons uses as her notation is divorced from any of the practical counting, numbering or recording functions it usually serves. As such, it doesn't measure increments, but accumulates into an overall flow, serving like an index to the time of its own making.*

*Carmine Iannaccone*



EXHIBITION: March 26 – May 30, 2009

OPENING RECEPTION: Thursday, March 26 6 – 9 pm

SHERRY FRUMKIN GALLERY is pleased to announce “...lines...” a solo exhibition of work by Los Angeles artist, **Doni Silver Simons** opening March 26, 2009 with a reception for the artist from 6 – 9 pm. The exhibition continues through May 30.

In the catalog accompanying the exhibition, artist and critic Carmine Iannaccone writes that Doni Silver Simons' work is the “directed energy of a privately performed ritual.” That ritual consists of a series of rules for marking time. Simons refers to her work as “doing lines,” and it is through these lines that she records the passage of moments, days, weeks, and years. It is, perhaps, her way of harnessing the inevitable march of time, if only in the ephemeral moment of making the mark itself – an act that cannot stop, does not speed and cannot slow time. In their accretion, the marks are concrete evidence that time has passed and that in it the artist was present.

*Simons' paintings may look minimal, but it is a layered, chromatic, textured minimalism, rich with the investments of symbolic action. Her process has nothing to do with stripping things down. She simply sets up limits, and then proceeds to plumb the space within those limits. In so doing, she expands that space, demonstrating how even a finite set contains an infinite number of positions between the fixed points. (Carmine Iannaccone, catalog essay)*

In a large work covering a 23 foot gallery wall, Simons will install 365 individual canvases each measuring 8" x6" - all but seven painted and marked with her "familiar tally bundle of four vertical strokes joined by one diagonal" (lannaccone) that document all the days of the year 2008. The seven unmarked canvases simply record the date that passed without her being able to mark them. The colors vary from day to day as do the width, the sweep and the intensity of the "tally bundles," recording the changing moods, or preoccupations of the day.

A series of small works on paper titled "Antiquities" have marvelous rough and scumbled surfaces in which the tally marks are obscured. In other works, the painted surface of the canvases are slashed as though time sat on the surface and could be probed or penetrated for its mysteries. In a recent installation for Global Soul at the Skirball, Simons collaborated with the public who were invited to write their hopes on scraps of cloth which she then pushed through the "opened walls" of a series of painted and slashed canvases as a "reminder and a hope..." for a future time.

For her concurrent exhibition at Hebrew Union, Simons will create the traditional calendar of the Omer as a sculptural work. (The ritual of the Omer is the daily counting of the seven days of the seven weeks that record the ancient Hebrews' ascent from slavery.) At the end of each of seven weeks, a canvas with the markings of the days for that week will be installed. At the end of the seven weeks all the canvases will be removed and stacked, one atop the other. With time collapsed upon itself, the work will assume a sepulchral, tomblike form.

Doni Silver Simons completed her MFA at Wayne State University and in rapid succession had 10 solo exhibitions and performances and participated in as many group exhibitions. In the years following that outburst of intense activity, her attention was devoted to teaching, lecturing and raising a family. She never stopped making work, but consciously withdrew from exhibiting until several years ago. Since resuming her promising career, Simons has had solo and group exhibitions in California and Illinois. She has been invited to participate in 2009 FRESH at MOCA. This is her 2<sup>nd</sup> solo exhibition with Sherry Frumkin Gallery.

Doni Silver Simons' work is in the public collections of Detroit Institute of Art, University of Michigan Art Museum, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, National Endowment of the Arts, Michigan Council of the Arts, Detroit, Grand Rapids Art Museum, Michigan, Flint Institute of Arts, Michigan, and Allegheny County Community College, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

For images and further information, please contact the gallery 310.266.5359

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