

Ellen Berkenblit *The Clock Unlocked*

For Immediate Release

September 12 – October 20, 2018

Opening reception: Wednesday, September 12 from 6–8pm
Third Floor Gallery

When we have passed a certain age, the soul of the child that we were and the souls of the dead from whom we sprang come and shower upon us their riches and their spells, asking to be allowed to contribute to the new emotions which we feel and in which, erasing their former image, we recast them in an original creation.

— Marcel Proust

The Clock Unlocked is the first exhibition to encompass works from over four decades of New York painter Ellen Berkenblit's practice. Hung salon style, arranged instinctually and without chronology, this unbound diary of paintings and drawings reveals the artist's idiosyncratic 'alphabet'— the core of her visual language.



Ellen Berkenblit, *Untitled*, 2016, gouache and graphite on paper, 11 x 15 inches.

Images appear and re-submerge: a witch, a tiger, a shoe, a truck, all reveal themselves as a collection of curves, strokes, and slashes. One recognizes a gesture, and in it a notion of how the physical sensations and muscular reactions of the arm, the hand and the wrist all drive Berkenblit's mark-making. The viewer becomes privy to an intimate calligraphy that is the result of the dance between artist, material, and surface.

Spanning an entire wall is *Sunshine*, the artist's largest canvas to date. Measuring over 16 feet in length, the composition features a leopard prowling alongside a traffic-jammed street. In its surfaces, worked and re-worked, we see a collection of rhythms sketched out in a familiar hand. Loop-de-loops of exhaust fumes mimic the cursive 'e-l-l-e' in the artist's name while dashed lines become lane markers. As we trace Berkenblit's line, we are given a look into her memory; remembering, remembering again, and in the final composition, a perfect sense of order is restored and preserved.

The Clock Unlocked is presented in conjunction with Ellen Berkenblit's new monograph, *Lines*. The gallery will host a book signing and panel discussion featuring contributing writers Linda Yablonsky and Miciah Hussey on Thursday, September 20th.

Ellen Berkenblit (born 1958 in Paterson, New Jersey) is an American painter who lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. She received her B.F.A from The Cooper Union in 1980. Her work is included in the public collections of the Aspen Art Museum, Colorado; Brooklyn Museum, New York; Cincinnati Art Museum, Ohio; Farnsworth Art Museum, Rockland, Maine; the Minnesota Museum of American Art, St Paul; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. Recent group exhibitions include *ELECTIVE AFFINITIES*, Sammlung Friedrichshof, Austria (2018); *Club 57: Film, Performance, and Art in the East Village, 1978–1983*, Museum of Modern Art, New York; *A Space For Thought*, Brand New Gallery, Milan; *Lyric on a Battlefield*, Gladstone Gallery, New York; *Hope and Hazard: A Comedy of Eros*, Hall Art Collection, Reading, VT; and *MCA DNA: Riot Grrrls* at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (all 2017).

Gallery Hours

Tuesday through Saturday
10am – 6pm

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