

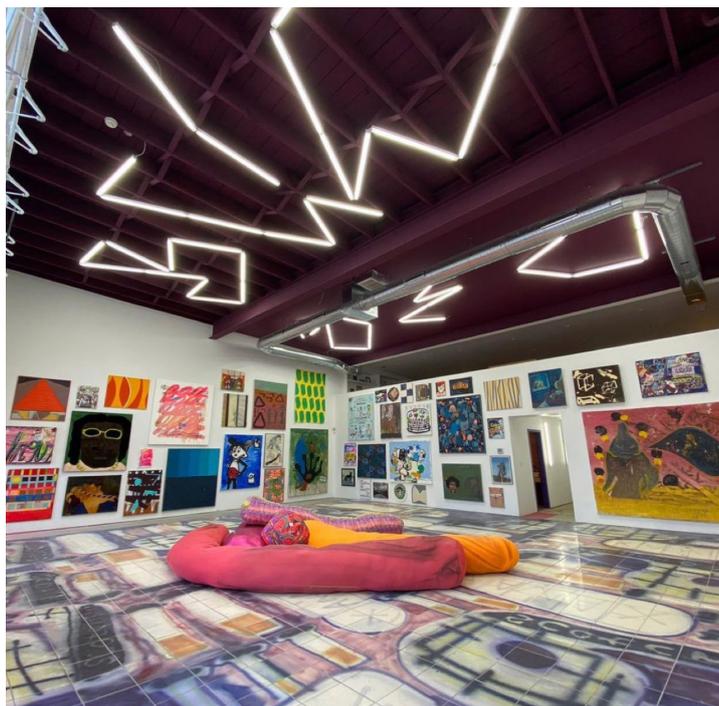
TRADERS

Traded Works from the Permanent Collection of Katherine Bernhardt

December 2020—February 2021

By Elizabeth Bernhardt

TRADERS is a show about art trades—traded art. The exhibition displays a portion of a vibrant and growing collection of art that has come about through exchanges made by Katherine Bernhardt who offered pieces of her own art—often small paintings on canvas or works on paper—in exchange for these individual works. Bernhardt has traded with dozens of artists in order to amass her collection; and although a couple of pieces in the show are works that Bernhardt purchased or otherwise collected, all of the works have been acquired by Bernhardt as a cultural investment in a contemporary art collection. Exchanging art with fellow like-minded artists has been an exciting way for both parties to acquire the sorts of art that they love.

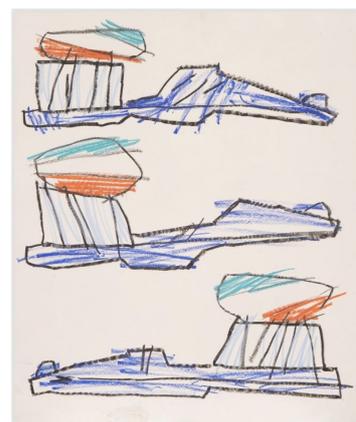


Bernhardt moved to NYC in 1998 to attend the School Of Visual Arts (SVA). Immediately after graduation she began showing with Team followed by Canada. From day one, Bernhardt lived her life fully immersed in the art scene—so she has been around a multitude of painters, sculptors and various creators of contemporary culture. The pieces on display thus represent a selected cross-section of art being made in NYC in the first two decades of the 21st century.

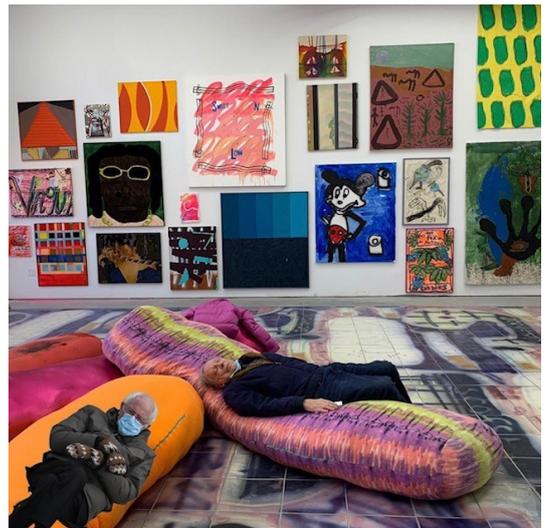
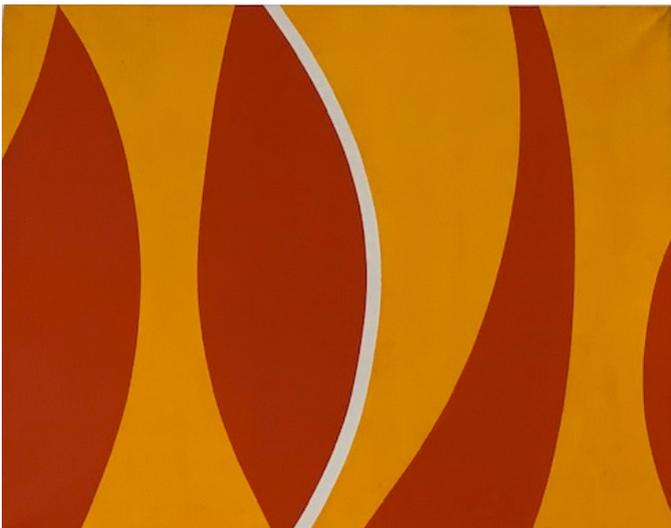
The image here above offers an overall view of the show from the Locust street entrance of Dragon, Crab and Turtle. For comfort, Bernhardt provides enormous stuffed textile worms on which visitors can sit or lie, relax and take in the show. The enormous salon style show takes up not only the four wide and tall walls of the gallery (including the glass facade wall where large paintings lean) but also several other venues. Upstairs in the “Soho Loft,” Bernhardt displays

approximately fifty small paintings on the shelves of the built-in white wooden bookcases. The exhibit continues on the loft's other walls, floor and bed. Additional works are part of simultaneous satellite shows at Philodendron (the artist's nearby studio on Sam Shepherd Drive), the artist's New York apartment (in Flatbush, Brooklyn) and the artist's childhood/current home in Claverach Park (in Clayton, a suburb of St. Louis).

The works have been carefully arranged in groups. The South Wall is a "cool" wall as it includes paintings that feature predominantly cool colors, mostly blues, purples, greys, blacks and whites. The wall features works by Eddie Martinez, Kathy Bradford, Bob Smith, Rebecca Morris, Alpha Chandling, Charlie Ramirez, Alicia Gibson, Al Freeman, Todd Bienvenue, Liz Markus, Susanna Vapnek, Jose Luis Vargas, Ellen Altfest, and others.



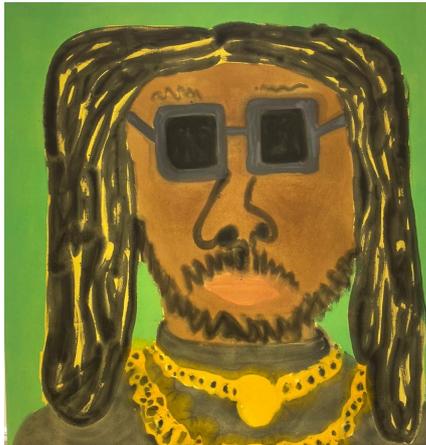
The East Wall features works that are dominated by hot colours like oranges, pinks, reds, magentas, browns and yellows. A prime example of that warmth comes from a 1960s abstract painting that resembles red and orange flames by Bob Smith (a work originally acquired through trade by the artist's father, Roger, in Chicago). A few of the paintings on this wall feature works made in pairs: a work by a father and that of his son (Youssef Jida and Khalifa Jdia-Bernhardt); a work by a husband and a wife (Russell Tyler and Trudy Benson); two works by Bill Saylor; two works by Jason Stoop (including the Sweet 'N Low, pictured below). Other colorful work on this wall was made by Claude Viallat (abstract green forms on yellow); Liz Markus (Two Hippies); Brian Belott (abstract squares in hot colors); Travis Fish (Takeoff of Migos painted on stretched velvet); Alicia Gibson (Virgin); and Crispy Tostones (Bananas). In an image below, Roger (Bernhardt's father) is seen resting on giant worms together with the popular art meme of Bernie Sanders in his knitted mittens (an icon created in January 2021, during the time of this exhibition).



The North Wall features four large paintings leaning directly against the glass picture windows on Locust Street. From left to right we see: Masaki Kawai's Universal Connections (2008, here below); Raphael Ferrer's Two Women on a Terrace (1984, detail here below); Travis Fish's Quavo of Migos (2019); and Jose Luis Vargas' Muerte Nina Platillo (2018, details below).



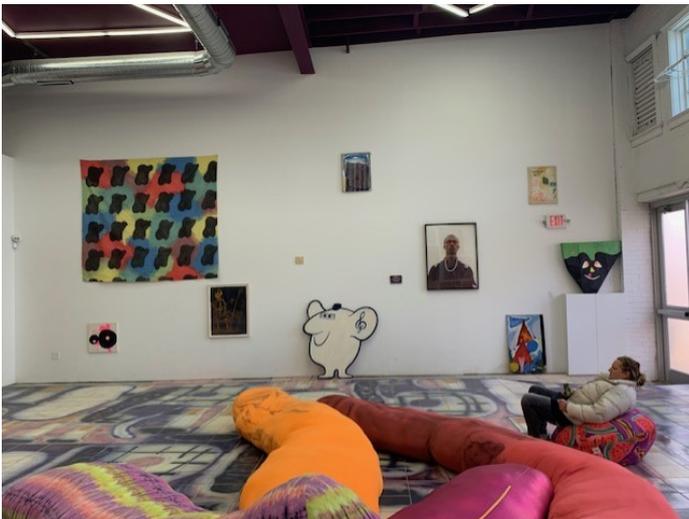
Above left: Ferrer (detail). Above right: overall North Wall
Below left: Fish. Below right: Kawai



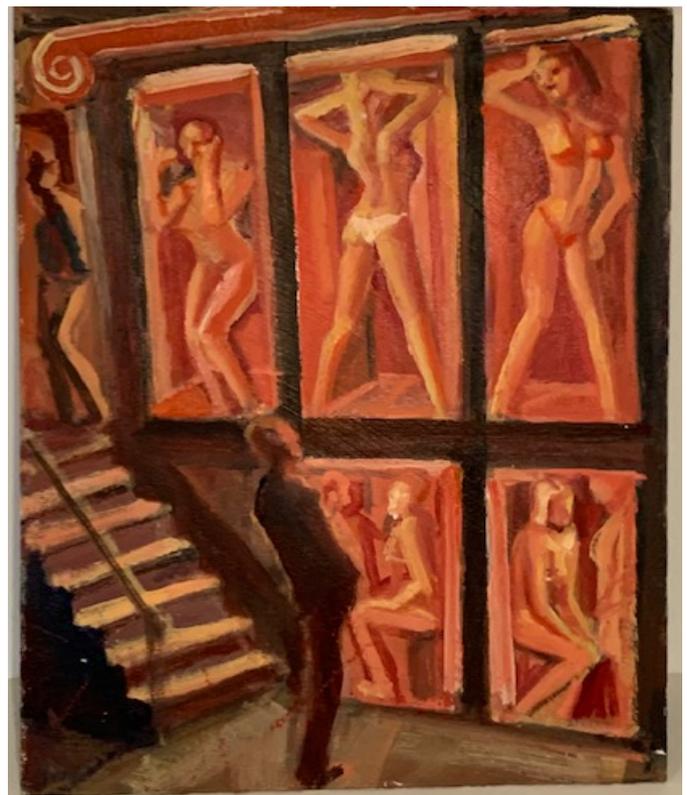
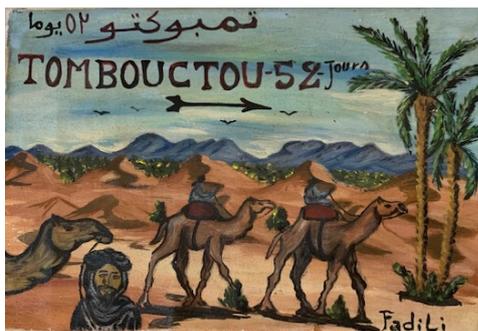
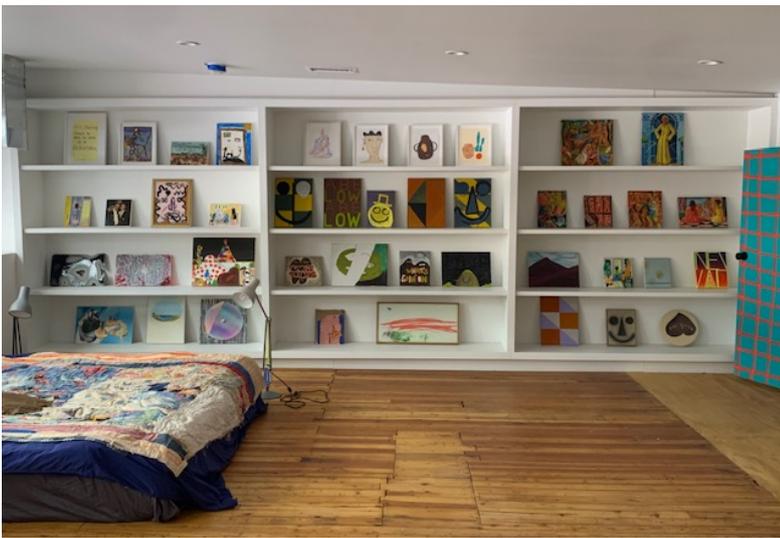
Below: Stunning colors from the work of Vargas (details)



The West Wall features a very large work (the Claude Viallat textile featuring black forms on a multi-colored background); some tiny works: Brendon Cass' Metallic Pastel Rainbow and Kathy Bradford's Batman; two sculptures: a roughly triangular paper maché sculpture by Masaki Kawai and a wooden cut-out of Baby Fum (by anonymous workers of St. Louis' renown Hi Fi Fo Fum music store); and more.



The upstairs “Soho Loft” features small works that mostly fit into the large built-in bookcase while the bed is decorated with a Gee’s Bend quilt, and the floor is covered in a selection of Moroccan rugs. The loft is complimented with two mustard-coloured vintage B&B Italia upholstered swivel chairs and a plastic vintage bookcase designed by Joe Colombo purchased at auction at Selkirk’s. Two full shelves of the small works are by a Moroccan artist active in L.A. and Southern France, Rachid Bouhamidi; and another small painting purchased in Marrakesh represents a camel caravan headed toward Timbuktu (signed Fadili). One of the framed works was made by art critic Jerry Saltz regarding work during the 2020 pandemic.



Collectively these works represent a wide-ranging American contemporary art collection put together by a prominent contemporary artist—and a permanent collection that can rival that of American museums of contemporary art. The show has been a pleasant surprise for many reasons, and perhaps most especially for Bernhardt who comments, “this show is a way to document and see what I have collected over the past twenty years because I had never been able to look at it all before.” Previously the work had been in storage in multiple locations with space restraints and has only been unpacked now that Bernhardt has the space to unpack it.



Left: Water Cooler soft sculpture by Al Freeman, located in the kitchen area of DCT

Here Below: A miniature painting of Bernhardt’s apartment in Flatbush, Brooklyn, by Bella Foster (left); and Bernhardt sitting in her Chicago undergrad art studio in her Chicago undergrad art studio by Andrew Bernhardt (right).



Bottom: General view of the “Soho Loft,” including a large work on paper by Francesco d’Angelo

The exhibits include the following artists, in alphabetical order, at the following locations:

- DCT = Dragon, Crab & Turtle Main Gallery
- SL = “Soho Loft” upstairs at DCT
- P = Philodendron on Sam Shepherd
- FAB = Flatbush apartment, Brooklyn
- 60C = Artist’s home, Clayton

Abelow: various block face paintings on burlap (several are self portraits). SL

Nina Chanel Abney: Love is the Drug. SL

BFGF: (artist designer) with various drawings. SL

Amy Bissoni: ceramic bust. P

Rachid Bouhamidi: several paintings of women. SL

Andrew Bernhardt: KB at work in her apartment. SL

Kathy Bradford: pancakes with pats of butter; Batman. DCT

Ben Butler: landscape. DCT

Alpha Chandling: sex tape painting in reflection. DCT



Fadili: Tombouctou 52 jours (Marrakesh). SL

Don Francesco d'Angelo: large watercolour. SL

Raphael Ferrer: Two women on a terrace. DCT

Travis Fish: Two Migos portraits by Bernhardt's former assistant. DCT

All Freeman: toothbrush drawing (Safety Hydration Protection); water cooler sculpture. DCT

Gee's Bend Quilt. Unknown artist. SL

Alicia Gibson: graffiti-esque works (2); currently featured in a show at the Grifter Space, NYC. DCT

Joanne Greenbaum. Untitled. DCT

Youssef Jdia: Desert Tents with Camels and Date Palms. DCT

Khalifa Atlas Lhakalafa Jdia-Bernhardt: Mickey Mouse in a Boppy. DCT

Misaki Kawai: 3D paper sculpture; Universal Connections (large painting). Both at DCT

KT40: Coke pop culture.... DCT

Chris Martin: glitter painting. FAB

Eddie Martinez: two paintings (Red and White Portrait; Untitled). DCT

Dan McCarthy. Huge smiling ceramic pot on a wooden box. FAB

Rebecca Morris: cubes in outer space. DCT

Renee Nikita: Greek God (circular painting on wood). SL

Poncili brothers: Adam and Eve in carved foam. FAB. Butt hole. SL

Charlie Ramirez: Puerto Rican Royalty; Enter Tainos. DCT

Jerry Saltz: "All Artists Should Be Able to Work in a Shitstorm" (2020). SL

Bill Saylor. Diamond Drip and Untitled. DCT

David Shrigley: Life is Fantastic (print) 60C ; So Good (as pictured above). Juliette balcony in SL

Bob Smith. Abstract geometric paintings traded with artists's father, Roger, when in college. DCT

Josh Stoop: Sweet-N-Low and Cherry. DCT

Jose Luis Vargas: three enormous works; one medium-sized piece. DCT & SL

Claude Viallat/Support Surface from the South of France. Many painted textiles. DCT

Y3 Collection by Yamamoto: young black man (photograph). DCT

Unknown artist: Hi Fi Fo Fum carved signage. Wood version at DCT and steel version at P

Unknown artist: Ceramic of Adam and Eve (purchased at Mercatino, Roma). FAB

Unknown artist: Moroccan painting of eyes (Marrakesh). DCT



