

THE 
GRIFFIS ART CENTER

INTERNATIONAL ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM – MAISON des ARTISTES
NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT USA

ANNE SEELBACH

1991-1992 Artist-in-Residence
Somerville, Massachusetts, USA



"Sub Launch"

Date Acquired: 6/15/1992, Date Created: 1992
Framed Dimensions: 39 x 31", Picture Dimensions: 30 x 22.25"
Medium: Acrylic on Paper

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1990-1991 Griffis Art Center's International Artist-in-Residence



from
Somerville,
Massachusetts,
United States of
America



Inspired by the landscape around her, Anne Seelbach began to paint it- not to reproduce it (she is no 'pretty' painter, nor is post-industrial landscape beautiful) but to extract from the detritus of urban decay a lasting memory of its origins. Lured by form, color, line, and energy in the stark outline of discarded machinery, abandoned spans, architectural spaces, and chemical waste dumps, her trained eye dissected them. Rust, erosion, rot, and verdigris ordered both her palette and the texture of her medium. The results of extraordinary vision are arresting oils (or watercolors) charged with color and meaning- abstractions based on today's world, on the balance between growth and decay. She calls them relics.

She recently took up welding. Affected, perhaps, by the doomsday nature of derelict machines (today's dinosaurs), she reproduces the geometric grace and static arcs inherent in their purpose. Hers is not the persona normally associated with heavy sculpture. Nor, meeting this tall, slender, brilliant woman, would one expect to find her tramping down dumps and landfills. But Anne Seelbach is a serious artist, dedicated to Art. Born in Detroit, Michigan, she graduated from NYU in 1967, earned a Certificate in Painting at the International Sommerakademie in Salzburg, and an MFA at Hunter College in 1985.

Until she entered Hunter she was a figurative painter. It was there she became involved with the abstract vision dominating her art today. Because she mastered drawing first, and instinctively responds to her subject, Seelbach's abstractions reveal the tragicomedy beneath the surface.

Her work is in collections and museums here and abroad. Awards include fellowships at Bunting Institute of Radcliffe College, Triangle Artists, and MacDowell, and Visiting Artist status at the Frauenmuseum in Bonn and Centrum Frans Masereel in Kasterlee, Belgium. She has taught at Northeastern, Emerson, and Rhode Island, at The Newark Museum and the Parrish Art Museum in Southampton, and was curatorial assistant (Costume Department) at the Metropolitan.

-Pamela G. Bond, 1991