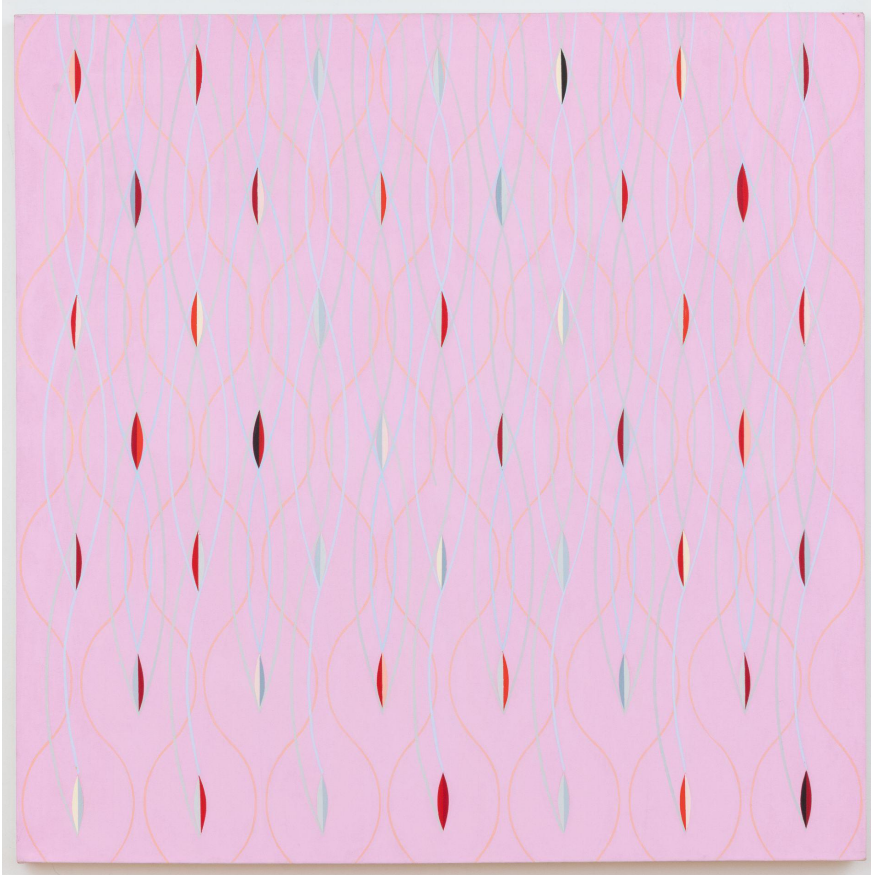


CRISTIN TIERNEY

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Audra Skuodas

Vibrational Vulnerability

October 25 – December 14, 2024

Opening Reception: Friday, October 25, 6:00 to 8:00 pm

219 Bowery, Floor 2
New York, NY 10002

Cristin Tierney Gallery is pleased to announce ***Vibrational Vulnerability***, a solo exhibition of rarely seen paintings and drawings from the estate of **Audra Skuodas**. This is the artist's first solo exhibition with the gallery and the first presentation of her work in New York in over fifteen years. *Vibrational Vulnerability* opens on Friday, October 25th, with a reception from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The exhibition will be on view through December 14th, 2024.

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Skuodas epitomizes the "under-recognized artist." Virtually unknown to a larger audience throughout her life, her oeuvre found greater attention only after her death when it was prominently featured in the 2022 Cleveland Triennial: Front. Over the past several years, museums such as the Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin, and the Cleveland Museum of Art have begun acquiring and exhibiting her work. A major museum is planning a retrospective exhibition with a publication.

Despite a lifetime of relative obscurity, Skuodas' work resonates with profound depth and a distinctive voice that challenges conventional boundaries of perception and form. Perpetually experimenting with materials, she explored beads, sequins, and vibrant fabrics, creating rigid and soft sculptures alongside quilts, books, and jewelry. Her paintings and drawings—initially aligned with Surrealism and before transitioning to abstraction starting in the 1980s—are where she gained renown the most.

Vibrational Vulnerability features figurative and abstract paintings, works on paper, and unique stitched drawings from her *Womb Wound Series 1999*. As a soul-searcher who studied science, mysticism, and Eastern religions, Skuodas sought to convey universality in her art. She blended geometric form with emotional intelligence and the feminine. In her later years, Skuodas' thinking was informed by what she called "the law of limits: that invisible phenomenon of tension and attraction which maintains the cosmic order."

Highlighted in *Vibrational Vulnerability* is Skuodas' large-scale painting *Womb Wound Series*, where she mixed geometric precision and patterns with a cosmic supernatural sensibility. At first glance, the composition appears structured yet ethereal. Layers of muted blues, yellows, reds, and grays create an expansive sense of depth, drawing parallels to the vastness of space and the intangible forces that shape our universe. Geometric shapes interplay with subtle, organic forms, hinting at an underlying harmony.

Emblematic of Skuodas' quest for knowledge, the paintings in *Vibrational Vulnerability* combine scientific inquiry with mystical introspection. They beckon the viewer into a contemplative space where alternative narratives and perspectives converge, urging them to reconsider their relationship with the cosmos and our place within it.

In September, Skuodas' work will be featured at the **Independent 20th Century** art fair in a special joint presentation by the artist's estate representatives, **Cristin Tierney Gallery** and **Abattoir Gallery**. This preview, in anticipation of *Vibrational Vulnerability*, will be on view from Thursday, September 5th, through Sunday, September 8th.

Audra Skuodas (1940-2019) was born in Lithuania and lived for six years in a displaced persons camp in Germany before coming to the U.S. in 1949. She became a US citizen in 1961 and earned a B.A. and M.A. at Northern Illinois University. She taught and exhibited her work throughout her career, and was associated with institutions such as the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, the Cleveland Institute of Art, and Oberlin College. She exhibited in Chicago with Richard Gray, and in

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New York with Moti Hassan, as well as at regional spaces in the Cleveland area. In 2010, she received the Cleveland Arts Prize Lifetime Achievement Award.

Founded in 2010, **Cristin Tierney Gallery** is a contemporary art gallery located on The Bowery with a deep commitment to the presentation, development, and support of a roster of both established and emerging artists. Its program emphasizes artists engaged with critical theory and art history, with an emphasis on conceptual, video, and performance art. Education and audience engagement is central to our mission.

Cristin Tierney Gallery is a member of the ADAA (Art Dealers Association of America).

Image

Audra Skuodas, *Womb Wound Series 1999*, 1999. Acrylic on canvas. 60 x 60 inches (152.4 x 152.4 cm).

Courtesy of Cristin Tierney Gallery, New York, NY, and Abattoir Gallery, Cleveland, OH.

Inquiries

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