

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Neysa Grassi

Foreign Language

April 2 –May 9, 2015

Artist's reception:
Thursday, April 2, 5:30–7:30 pm

Gallery hours:
Tue–Sat: 10 am–6 pm



Untitled (Spain), 2007, gouache on paper, 9 x 7 1/2 inches

Locks Gallery is pleased to present *Foreign Language*, a solo exhibition surveying works on paper by Neysa Grassi. A reception for the artist will be held on Thursday, April 2, 2015 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.



Untitled (Florence), 1997, gouache on paper, 7 x 5 5/8 inches

For over two decades Neysa Grassi has worked in gouache, ink, gum arabic, and graphite while traveling. Her abstract gestures, loops, and patterns are recognizably hers, a defining personal language. Yet each place she visited transformed elements of her painting with unique patterns, palettes, and touch. *Foreign Language* surveys Grassi's works on paper made in places including Ballycastle, Northern Ireland; Majorca, Spain; the coast of Maine; Florence, Italy; and here in Philadelphia.

These delicate and energetic works flirt with the provisional in painting but more importantly highlight Grassi's exploration of her own

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LOCKS GALLERY





Untitled (Florence), 2003, gouache on paper, 9 x 7 1/2 inches

intuition. Known for forms that defy expectations of abstraction, her works simultaneously embrace and shun pattern and skirt around the edges of representation. Each piece evokes its own sense of both the familiar and the unknown, not unlike hearing a foreign dialect for the first time.

As poet and critic Susan Stewart wrote of her work in 2011, “What do you see when you look at a painting by Neysa Grassi? Colors for which you have no name, certainly. You may as well have the sensation of looking deep into an alchemist’s pot, or of floating far above the work as you look down on the patchwork of a landscape.”

This exhibition anticipates a forthcoming publication and traveling exhibition, the first to survey Neysa Grassi’s works on paper. The second iteration of *Foreign Language* will be on view at the Delaware Center for Contemporary Art from June 27 through November 8, 2015.

Neysa Grassi lives and works in Philadelphia, where she is a faculty critic at PAFA and was a recipient of a Pew Fellowship in the Arts. She has had solo exhibitions at several museums, including the Pensacola Art Museum, FL and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, PA. Since 1990 the artist has had over 20 one-person exhibitions in galleries in Philadelphia and New York. Her work is in the collections of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, and the Woodmere Art Museum. Recently she was included in *Modern Women at PAFA: From Cassatt to O’Keeffe* and *The Female Gaze: Women Artists Making Their World* at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.

Locks Gallery is located at 600 Washington Square South in Philadelphia, PA. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm. For additional information, please contact Locks Gallery at 215.629.1000, 215.629.3868 fax, or khjohnson@locksgallery.com.

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