

For Immediate Release
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Lauren Bergman and Karen Dow
American Fragment
April 22 – May 28, 2010



Lauren Bergman / *Reflecting on Dualism*
25 x 40" / acrylic, ink, lithocoal and graphite on paper / 2010



Karen Dow / *Chimera*
32 x 32" / acrylic on panel / 2010

April 22, 2010 - New York, NY: Tria Gallery presents *American Fragment*, featuring works by artists Lauren Bergman and Karen Dow, through May 28, 2010.

American Fragment features the most recent paintings from artists Lauren Bergman and Karen Dow. While the former's work is figurative and the latter's abstract, they are united in their reference to a mythic America. On view are works from Bergman's *Ameritopia* series, in which she explores female identity through a lens of tongue-in-cheek nostalgia. Bergman uses the iconic mid-century modern architecture as backdrops emblematic of the collective optimism that pervades American ideology. Dow's abstract work similarly uses the geometry of modern architecture and interior space to deconstruct furniture, rooms and people in a modulated color palette. Speaking to the underlying uncertainty of our current cultural climate, these paintings offer glimpses of life in the American Utopia, if only a fragment viewed through our own distorted prisms.

Lauren Bergman

The romanticized suburban setting found in Bergman's work is used not as a record of a specific place, but as a setting to an exploration of the fears and uncertainties that nip at the edges of the post-feminist landscape. By referencing the mid-twentieth century, a period that exists in the cultural memory as an unparalleled time of American prosperity, the immediacy of the issues is removed from our current cultural climate and allows for emotional distance and perspective, exposing the lack of intellectual progression.

Bergman's work probes a loss of cultural optimism and the ongoing irresolution of such post-feminist issues as sexuality versus intellectualism, passivity and acquiescence versus ambition. The work courts irony and the inner narratives are playful, yet confront the conflicting expectations of contemporary culture and the intricately complex ways in which we form our identities.

Bergman grew up in Washington, D.C., before relocating to Manhattan in 1987 to study painting and design at Parson's School of Design and The Art Students League in New York and a Masters of Education from Smith College. Select solo exhibitions in New York City include *New Works* at O.K. Harris Gallery, and *American Dream* at Makor Gallery. Group shows include *Charity By Numbers* and *The War: The Anti-War Show* at Corey Helford Gallery, *All About Women* at Carl Hammer Gallery in Chicago, and *Innocence and Insight* at Claire Oliver Fine Art in New York City. Bergman has been published in *The New York Times*, *Xlr8r*, *Boing Boing*, *Fecal Face*, *Juxtapoz*, *Absolute Arts*, *Glasstire*, and *Vinyl Pulse*. Bergman currently lives and works in Manhattan.

Karen Dow

Karen Dow's work is rooted in her search for the illusive 'perfect' life of domestic bliss in a beautiful home, surrounded by beautiful things. Her inspiration comes from home catalogs where everything is a fantasy, not actually reflective of real life. She deconstructs these scenes to the bare essence of color, line, patterns and space. In her work, the viewer can see his or her own surroundings, or become completely absorbed in Dow's world. Dow sees the beauty in everyday life, but knows that nothing is as it seems on the surface and when you break it down to its core, you begin to see a whole new world.

In addition to the pleasurable and decorative qualities, Dow's work is firmly rooted in art-historical discourse, with formal similarities to deeply pragmatic and philosophical painters such as Piet Mondrian and Josef Albers. "Balancing the analytical study of color and form," writes Adam E. Mendelsohn, "deciding what is and isn't necessary, stalking a mood, weaving order from capriciousness; all of these things move toward the goal of transforming what is fleeting and invisible, into tangible objects that harbor the promise of return."

Dow received a BA in sculpture and anthropology from Marlborough College, an MA from Brandeis University and an MFA from Yale University School of Art. She teaches printmaking at the Educational Center for the Arts in New Haven. Her solo exhibitions include *Moira Fitzsimmons Arons Art Gallery* in Hamden, Conn., *Bellwether Gallery* in New York City, and *Hudson Walker Art Gallery* in Provincetown, MA. She has also shown in many group exhibitions around the world and has work in private and corporate collections nationwide. Honors include the *Joan Mitchell Career Enhancement Grant* and the *Joan Mitchell MFA Award*.

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It is the mission of Tria Gallery to exhibit a balance of established artists with impressive resumes and exciting young talent, showing representational and abstract work, painting, sculpture, mixed media and installations. The common denominator is that the Tria artist has a unique, authentic voice and a compelling body of work which the directors feel should be given an audience.

Tria is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 11 am to 6 pm, or by appointment. ***American Fragment*** opens April 22 and remains on exhibition through May 28. For more information, please visit www.triagallerynyc.com.