

# OSMOS

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Michele Araujo in the barn studio, Stamford, NY, 2022 (photo: Alon Koppel)

## **Michele Araujo: The Vulnerable Paintings**

opening Thursday, January 26, 2023  
5 - 7 pm

on view until March 4, 2023  
Thursday - Saturday 12 - 6 pm (and by appointment)

Michele Araujo's paintings are not easy to classify. Her paintings on mylar are at once transparent and flat, with paint pooling and sitting on top of the surface, resisting absorption. Collaged elements—such as wallpaper, masking tape, contact paper or fragments of photos—interrupt neat classifications of these works as abstraction, figuration, or appropriation. For all their revelry in surface, color, scale, and play, Araujo's works are decidedly mute, even vulnerable, in their refusal to signify.

Looking back at Araujo's development, it becomes evident that she was not like other art students at the Museum School in Boston, where her education began, and even less like the artists she met through her partner, Adam Simon, when he was a student at the New York Studio School. "They were always talking about art while I stayed silent." However, she recalls that a few years later, when taking part in a Trotsky reading group, her Armenian and Puerto Rican working-class background "meant something." Later still, while doing graduate work at Bard, where she was "always pregnant," Araujo decided she didn't want to be silent anymore.

"You do something for a reason that's unknown to you—and then you respond to it," Araujo has said of her studio practice. "I spend a lot of time being lost." As Lisa Cohen writes in BOMB Magazine about Araujo's practice, "Her work engages and entangles distinctions between abstraction and figuration, surface and depth, multiple and unique, silence and speech, stillness and motion. She is working with and against her own history[...]"

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**Michele Araujo** is an artist who lives and works in Brooklyn and upstate New York. Her work encompasses painting, collage and video. She received a BFA from Tufts University, Boston, and an MFA from Bard College, New York. From 1984 to 1988 she co-directed Four Walls, a forum/exhibition space for artists, then located in Hoboken, New Jersey. She participated in the residency program at Yaddo in 1987 and again in 2015. In 1989, she was awarded a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. She has had solo exhibitions at James Fuentes Temporary in New York and Studio10 in Brooklyn (where she also curated two group shows). Her most recent exhibition was 3 @ 386 in Stamford, NY., with Joy Episalla and Carrie Yamaoka, which is being reprised at the Catskill Art Space in December, 2023.

[michelearaujo.com](http://michelearaujo.com)