

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Recent Paintings and Drawings
Elke Solomon

April 20 – May 8, 1999

Reception: Saturday, April 24, 6-8pm

Elke Solomon's new paintings represent a continuation of her investigation into abstraction. This body of work is unencumbered by the customary distinctions between abstraction and representation as it explores ambiguities embodied in coded shapes, marks, colors, and surface textures. Solomon expands upon previous work through this conscious tension between abstraction and representation, as well as through an emphasis on color that pushes beyond the black/red range of her prior painting.

In this new series, Solomon uses stencils of stylized images to encode her shapes and marks with an added layer of meaning. The result is an all-over painting that is as much about the materiality of the painted surface as it is about an inquiry into cultural attitudes toward conventionalized images of power. Each of the paintings in this series contains groups of related iconic forms representing aspects of power—sexual, religious, physical and natural.

The stenciled images emerge as recognizable forms from the layers of related color, providing a means of meditation between the mechanical and the personal. At the same time, the accumulation and consolidation of the images creates an abstract color field that also blurs the boundaries between the shapes. The viewer is tempted toward interpretation, yet is engaged by the painted surface.

**For more information please contact:
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