

# The New York Times

**ART & DESIGN** | What to See in N.Y.C. Galleries Right Now

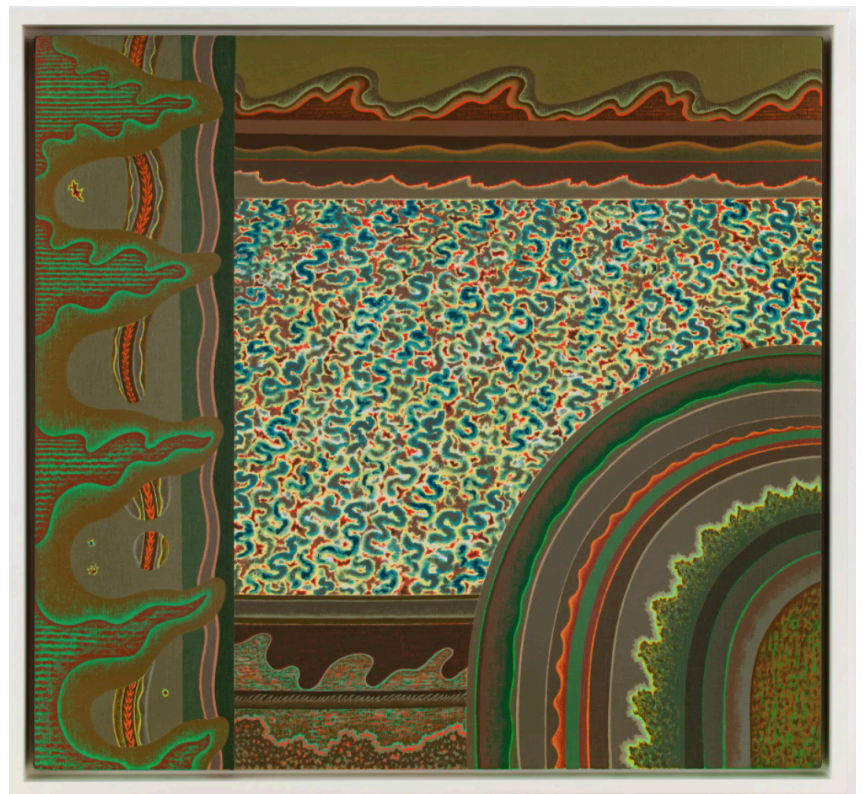
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## Evelyn Statsinger

Through June 18. Gray New York, 1018  
Madison Avenue, Second Floor,  
Manhattan; 212-472-8787,  
[richardgraygallery.com](http://richardgraygallery.com).

**By Roberta Smith | May 18, 2022**

Evelyn Statsinger’s art is making its stunning New York debut at Gray New York, six years after the artist, who was born in Brooklyn, died in Chicago at the age of 88. On hand are 10 oils and five drawings from the 1980s and early ’90s.



Evelyn Statsinger’s “Central Forces,” 1985. Stanley and Evelyn Statsinger Cohen Foundation and GRAY

The show’s title, “Currents,” reflects Statsinger’s diverse cultural sources: Surrealism as well as Native American, prehistoric and Japanese arts and crafts. And it may also indicate the conduitlike elements that course through her compositions, pulsing with

energy. The independence of her art derives from its inventive use of highly refined textures and patterns, their abundant associations and their peculiar balance of real and unreal. Her paintings are essentially representations of abstractions.

Associations with nature and design are especially strong: Various textures suggest bark, wave patterns, Formica and, frequently, custom molding. In “Central Forces” these moldings are full of undulating lines that suggest something like changing moisture levels. They frame a central area whose pattern of phthalo blue, black and red on a cream background mesmerizingly evokes Pollock, endpapers, Ken Price’s sanded ceramic surfaces and paisley.

Catalogs from some of Statsinger’s gallery shows in Chicago suggest that this presentation barely scratches the surface of the different ways she marshaled her motifs, patterns and color schemes from around 1950 forward. Her work was in the early Monster Roster exhibitions that prepared the ground for the Chicago Imagists. Her achievement is a great addition to the history of modern American art.

*ROBERTA SMITH*