

Thomas Deans Fine Art

August 25, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Works by Helen Durant and Tracy Sharp

Two contrasting bodies of work by perennially popular Atlanta artists

Dates: September 11 – October 10

Opening Reception for the artists: Friday, September 11, 6:00-8:00 pm

Thomas Deans Fine Art, 690 Miami Circle NE #905, Atlanta, GA 30324

Gallery Hours: Monday - Saturday, 11-5

Thomas Deans Fine Art presents new work by Helen Durant and Tracy Sharp, two perennially popular Atlanta artists. Their work is a study in contrasts: Helen's is always deft and often spare, much of it incorporating collage. Tracy's work is dense and ruminative, often thickly textured. Tracy concerns herself solely with the human face and form; Helen, more often animals. Yet both artists seek to translate the world around them into images that combine both intuition and craft.

"The Return of the Herd," the title of Helen Durant's new body of work, signals the artist's revisiting the imaginative, idiosyncratic, and sometimes anthropomorphized goats, inspired by her four-legged neighbors at Atlanta's Goat Farm Art Center. Her incisive use of line conveys a great deal with unusual economy and directness. Her mastery of collage is total, always a delight, and richly inventive. The results have enchanted Atlanta for decades

Tracy Sharp's new body of work, "Contemplating Duality," continues her exploration of the Feminine in mixed media paintings on birch panel or paper. Her focus of her paintings is on the contrasts and oppositions—light and darkness, roughness and smoothness, stillness and movement—all in the service of the mysteriousness that is at the heart of her work.

Sharp says of her paintings: "My surfaces are heavy and time intensive. Layers of medium allow images to simply appear, like looking at clouds. My creative response forms around drips, pooling pigments, and chunks of plaster. Images seem to move in and out, constantly morphing and spinning into something new." From an artistic background, Sharp resisted a career in art until one day, in her own words, "I picked up a brush and I began to paint."

Helen Durant has been experimenting with paint, torn paper, graphite, charcoal, and found objects for most of her life. Along the way she has invented a rich visual vocabulary all her own. Her first love is drawing, with which is always the starting point for a new work. The subconscious and intuition play important roles in her creative process as she shapes her impulses toward a final form.

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The artists will be present at the public reception opening the exhibition on Friday, September 11, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

End

About Thomas Deans Fine Art

Thomas Deans Fine Art was established in 1983 and is located on Miami Circle, in the heart of Atlanta's art and design district. The gallery specializes in contemporary paintings, contemporary and historical works on paper, and selected contemporary photography. The gallery works regularly with museums, private and corporate collectors, casual buyers, interior designers, and art consultants.

Thomas Deans is the founder (1983) and president of Thomas Deans Fine Art and was co-founder of The Gallery Downstairs, London (1985-1997).

Mr. Deans has written and lectured extensively about the fine and performing arts, with projects for PBS, The Metropolitan Opera Guild, New York City Center for the Performing Arts, Cleveland, San Jose, Richmond, and Sacramento ballets, the Cummer Museum and Gardens, the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg (Florida), the High Museum of Art, Atlanta, the Albany (Georgia) Museum of Art, the Florida Institute for Art Education, and Women's Art Journal, among others.

He has written chapters on British paintings/artists for *The Catalogue of the Collection, St. Petersburg Museum of Fine Arts* (1994) and *Women Artists*, by Margaret Barlow (1999). He currently serves on the Dean's Advisory Board for the college of fine art, drama, dance, and design at Florida State University.