

DRAWN TO ABSTRACTION



Dieu Donne Papermill
NYC, New York

Dieu Donne Papermill is one of New York's most dynamic art centers dedicated to the creation, promotion and preservation of new contemporary art utilising the hand papermaking process. Throughout its long history Dieu Donne has worked with more than 500 world-renowned contemporary artists.

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Some of my fondest and clearest memories of being a child are of times spent in an artist's studio. Just being there stimulated all my senses; the taste and smell of paint, the freedom I felt, and the excitement of seeing something new. The many reflections of light from various objects onto the studio walls as the day passed, and the distinct smell when opening the studio door in the morning for the first time, are the most vivid. Today, I am living my dream, and when you end up doing what you love most, you end up doing it for 24 hours a day. My favourite tool is an old paintbrush, the bristles hard from years of impasto paste, and the end blunt for scratching into wet paint. The thick impasto is moved around the canvas, almost sculpted, until such time that I am happy with the furrows that define the forms and shapes. After the paste has dried, the process of applying primary colours to the furrows is extremely considered and deliberate. This process is directly opposite to the spontaneity with which the paste is moved around in order to extract the images. The result is a painting that captures and synthesises both the spontaneous with the deliberate, the naive with the rational. The paintings form blueprints for my sculptures. I maintain a strong focus on the lines in the paintings by constructing a wire web of iron rods to form the structure of the sculptures. Light reveals the abstract forms through the solid mass between the wire boundaries. I am challenged through experimentation to discover new techniques with an expected evolution into metal, bronze and aluminium. My work grows using elements found in previous works, created to be independent, self-sufficient works of art that can stand the test of time.

