

MEREDITH WARD FINE ART

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Meredith Ward Fine Art

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ANNE-DAVNES ELSER: SECOND BIRTH

May 8 – June 16, 2023

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Second Birth, 2023, oil on gessobord, 24 x 24 inches

Meredith Ward Fine Art is pleased to present **Anne-Davnes Elser: Second Birth**, an exhibition of 11 paintings which will be on view from May 12 through June 16, 2023. This will be the artist's first exhibition with the gallery and her first exhibition in New York. "Anne-Davnes' paintings show us how beauty can emerge from loss," said Debra Wieder, Director of the gallery. "This is the perfect moment to bring that message forward."

The title work, *Second Birth*, is inspired by Anne-Davnes "rearranging herself" after a series of personal losses, including a divorce and the death of her father from Alzheimer's disease in 2020. The artist wants to be "curious about her pain," and uses her paintings to explore these inner states of mind.

(more)

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Anne-Davnes Elser was born in Aurora, Illinois in 1968. At the age of three, her family moved to Atlanta, Georgia. A shy and quiet girl growing up, she found an expressive outlet in visual art and eventually enrolled at The Cleveland Institute of Art, where she studied painting and ceramics. As a young art student in Cleveland, her impulse to articulate "the search for self from the female lens" was unpopular and discouraged by her teachers. Nevertheless, she persisted in this theme and continues to explore it through this latest body of work.

Settling back in Atlanta, the artist has taught design and emotive typography and has developed a global audience as an instructor in calligraphy. Throughout, she has maintained her painting practice, which became a space to navigate the connection between her inner and outer experiences.

Artist Statement (Excerpt)

My paintings express the cost of self-awareness. ... Painting is the medium to which I turn to express the visual language of metaphor, the delicious narrative of color relationships, and the power and beauty of femininity, balanced by both feminine and masculine energies. This balance has been my life's work, and sharing the story is the table of community, in the classroom, on the stage, the bar, kitchen table, and within the nooks of our mind's inner vision.

The bodies in my pieces search for balance on the surface. Sometimes elements appear in a work, and then are sacrificed by becoming the foundation for a different element, thereby living on as an underlayer of awareness that gives the painting a history, literally and metaphorically. The life of a piece from start to finish is a journey of inspiration, regret, loss, fascination, and joy.

About the Gallery

Meredith Ward Fine Art opened in 2004 specializing in American art from the 19th century to the present. The gallery is the exclusive representative of the estates of Flora Crockett, Joseph Fiore, and Steve Wheeler. Meredith Ward Fine Art is located at 44 East 74th Street, Suite G, in New York City and is currently open Monday through Friday, 10am to 5pm. For more information or images, contact Meghan Schwab at 212-744-7306 or info@meredithwardfineart.com.

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Virgin, 2011, oil on hardboard, 8 x 6 inches