



**RANDI RUSSO: *Drawing Lines in the Sand***

**Saturday, September 25—October 22**

at **OBJCT Art + Design**

1308 Monte Vista Ave, #8, Upland, CA 91786

**Artist's opening reception:**

Saturday, September 25, from 2-6:30pm, with a music performance by Randi Russo at 6:00pm

Open to the public on Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>; afterwards, by appointment only:

Contact David Shearer at OBJCT at 909-270-7703

**CLAREMONT, CA – September 13, 2021** – Los Angeles artist Randi Russo will hold her second California solo show at OBJCT Art + Design later this month called *Drawing Lines in the Sand*.

Russo's contemporary painting explores abstraction inspired by the gestures, structures, and compositions of Willem de Kooning, Lee Krasner, Louise Nevelson, Brice Marden, John Chamberlain, and Arshille Gorky. However, the push-pull of foreground/background tugs are distinctively her own.

*Drawing Lines in the Sand* encapsulates both the reference of making art through, yes, "drawing lines" and the idiom Americans use to express when they've had enough – that "this here is the boundary and dare you not cross it." Even the sound of the words, if said one way, could sound full of whimsy, yet when said in another, there is a resoluteness that is far from the whimsical world and very much in the here and now.

Russo's paintings toe this line of duality – the gestural and organic meeting up with what is solid and secure. There is a combination of definitiveness and playfulness in her line work. It's the emotion that seeps underneath the waves of her lines that has you pulled by the undertow of shape on top of shape, drawing you into the whole composition.

Russo explains the show's title: "In a day and age when we feel nostalgic for lost times of innocence, now more than ever, we must take a stand to the changes that are occurring around the globe that rob us from pure joy, love, compassion, and connectedness. Whether it's taking a stand to eliminate COVID (to stop the politicizing of the vaccine), taking a stand to better the world's race relations and fight for women's rights, confronting the current climate emergency, and addressing the acrimonious air of the political landscape, *lines must be drawn*. However, my work mostly walks through an interior landscape, and in my own life, I've learned that I have to 'draw lines in the sand' in order to survive the pressures that come with being an artist in a day, age, and country which does not appreciate the Artist nearly as much as I think it should."

*Drawing Lines in the Sand* will be open to the public on Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup> from 2pm-6:30pm. A music performance by Randi Russo of her original songs will start at 6pm.

**ABOUT RANDI RUSSO**

Randi Russo is a visual artist and musician who currently resides and works in Los Angeles. She studied painting at Washington University in St. Louis, followed by psychology at New York University. Her Chicago show as an artist with Thomas Masters Gallery was reviewed in *Hyperallergic*. Randi exhibited in numerous group shows, including one at the Chicago Cultural Center.

For more information, contact: David Shearer at OBJCT Art + Design, [ds@objct.com](mailto:ds@objct.com), 909-270-7703, [www.objct.com](http://www.objct.com)