



Julia Stoops

SYMBOLS INVENTORY

2012 | 10" x 8" each

40 - 45 small pieces,
displayed in a grid.

Mixed media (any combination of the following: ink, acrylic, oil, house paint, china marker, graphite, ink jet prints, dry transfer, marker and Xerox on paper) mounted on stretched canvas.

JULIA STOOPS is a Portland based painter and writer whose work is influenced by the study of philosophy and physics. Her paintings are fraught with a self-imposed order as she endeavors to sort out the chaos inherent in navigating the world. Painting, drawing media and collage are among the many materials Stoops uses to create her often epic paintings, while the tropes of landscape and figuration provide her work with a scaffolding upon which she suggests a delicate narrative. And yet, her figures inhabit a world that is neither chronologically linear nor shackled by gravity. The world Stoops creates for her figures is the mirror of their interior lives, their consciousness illustrated in abstract marks and Stoops' own alphabet of symbols. This alphabet includes characters as varied as *The Traveling Sphere* and *The Glowing Quatrefoils* and whose formal qualities follow suit. These characters then become Stoops' vocabulary within each painting to describe the lives of the figures that inhabit them. Each image creates a sort of stage or tableau within which the characters face a crossroads; multiple outcomes bristle across their possible futures like electricity, unknown yet palpable.

In the painting, *Three Comets Arrive*, a cadmium red pendant flies atop a ziggurat in the foreground as the sky explodes in celestial celebration. It is an image that lends the painting the dreamy, surreal grace of De Chirico, yet is more confrontational than the Italian ever was. The dual symbol references the ancient human habit to design the grandest of monuments to deities and to stake claim with a celebratory flag. Yet, in Stoops' painting, the combination of the two seems to say that when climbing to the top of the ziggurat what we find is not God but ourselves, our grandest potential embedded in our purest of collective energies, despite what name we give it.



Julia Stoops
THE TRAVELING SPHERE



Julia Stoops
THE GLOWING QUATREFOILS

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