

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Romantic Abstracts, ‘Product Paintings’ and 3-D Pixels

Joan Snyder, David Salle and Angela Bulloch in this week’s Fine Art

By **PETER PLAGENS**

May 22, 2015 7:49 p.m. ET

Joan Snyder: Sub Rosa

Franklin Parrasch
53 E. 64th St., (212) 246-5360
Through June 20

Joan Snyder (b. 1940) is something of an old warrior for abstract painting. When she was a young artist in the mid-1960s, with a freshly minted MFA degree from Douglass College at Rutgers University, the dominant art-world style was cool, masculine Minimalism.

Looking instead at such earlier

German expressionist painters as Emil Nolde, Ms. Snyder first attracted notice for her “brush stroke” paintings in which—while not totally forsaking the cerebral in art—she laid out her brush marks as if they were candy bars on a candy counter.

Since then, Ms. Snyder has become steadily more romantic and materially expansive, adding to her pictures the likes of burlap, glitter, gauze and papier-mâché, and steadily favoring generalized flower imagery. In such recent paintings as “Amor Matris” (2015)



'Amor Matris' by Joan Snyder (2015) PHOTO: JOAN SNYDER/
FRANKLIN PARRASCH GALLERY

franklin parrasch gallery, inc.

53 east 64th st. new york, ny 10065
www.franklinparrasch.com
t 212 246 5360 f 646 429 8770

and “Symphony VII” (2014), she celebrates the loosely circular form of flowers and, in low-relief (or high impasto), the undulation of their petals. Ms. Snyder’s handling of her subject is strong and energetic rather than delicate and refined, which gives her paintings the heft and vagueness to keep them essentially abstract.

Some tastes might prefer a little less color coordination (there’s an awful lot of rose red here) and the compositional security that comes with relying on an underlying grid, but that would be picky. As contemporary painting exhibitions go, this one is the real deal.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/romantic-abstracts-product-paintings-and-3-d-pixels-1432338593>