

# Joanne Ungar "PAIN RELIEF" at Front Room Gallery in New York

Front Room Gallery is proud to present "Pain Relief " by Joanne Ungar. This solo exhibition features pigmented waxworks which embed evidence of current available methods to relieve physical or mental suffering. All the artwork in this show contains boxes for products that deliver pain relief, items for either numbing ourselves or for altering our reality. Among these items are alcohol, OTC medications, Rx medications, confections, cosmetics, and digital toys. These poured wax paintings by Joanne Ungar are composed with the geometric forms of recycled packaging, and layered and infused with pigmented wax. Ungar's complex sense of color transforms base patterns through multiple luminous strata of graded hues, overlaid with controlled density to either obscure or reveal the accumulated layered color. Her luminous wax paintings are created with refined, purified beeswaxes and commercial grade paraffins with very high melting points, creating work that is archival and stable.



Sensodyne03 I wax and painted cardboard on wood I 11" x 9" I 2017



Neosporin I wax and painted cardboard on wood I 8" x 7" I 2018



Wacom Stylus Holder I wax and painted cardboard on wood I 9" x 7" I 2018

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Joanne Ungar is an alchemist. Her studio is a science lab. A

visitor to her studio will meet Joanne, with her friendly self-deprecating Midwestern demeanor, and then immediately will be overwhelmed by the stovetop coils, high tech ventilation, vice wrenches, plywood molds, complicated presses and saws, and the carcasses of discarded experiments orderly stacked and categorized. Ungar's father was a scientist. When she was growing up he talked about how art and science were really one and the same thing: a methodical exploration of ideas crossed with joyous creativity and some random surprises. Built on these origins and continuing into an intense studio practice Ungar states: "I often set up "experiments" with variables and a control group in order to solve a problem of opacity or pigmentation, for example. I also like to push my materials beyond my understanding of them: seeing what happens when they melt; seeing what will stick to what and for how long; what happens to them at stupidly high temperatures. I am ridiculously methodically organized, and in addition to cataloging each piece, I sometimes catalog it through its various versions/changes." This highly dedicated and rigorous studio practice creates astounding results that have transformed modest materials into 'gold'.

Ungar is originally from Minneapolis. After studies at Oberlin College in Ohio she moved to New York City and earned a BFA from the School of Visual Arts. Joanne Ungar is a New York Foundation for the Arts NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship program Grant recipient. Ungar has exhibited extensively in New York and nationally. Ungar currently works in Brooklyn, New York.



Joanne Ungar "PAIN RELIEF" Front Room Gallery March 1 – March 31, 2019

Joanne Ungar

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New York, NY

## **FRAMING SPECIFICATIONS**



### **METRO FLOATING FRAME**

Profile: 122

Type: floating frame for 3/4 – 1" paintings

Wood and Finish: maple with clear water based finish

Purchase Option: joined frame