

Elise Adibi

*Substance*

December 11, 2014 – January 17, 2015



From left: *Desert Painting*, 2014 rabbit skin glue, oil paint and frankincense, myrrh, cedarwood and red mandarin essential plant oils on canvas, 20 x 20", *Turmeric Grid*, 2014, rabbit skin glue, graphite, oil paint and turmeric essential plant oil on canvas, 30 x 30", *Gold Monochrome (Patent)*, 2014, rabbit skin glue, gilding glue and 24-karat gold leaf on canvas, 30 x 30"

Louis B. James is pleased to present *Substance*, the first solo show with the gallery by Elise Adibi. We present 12 new works, a combination of gold, monochromatic, striped and poured paintings, in a meditative setting, inviting the viewer to spend reflective time within the installation.

The gold is used both as color and 24-karat leaf. It does not tarnish when exposed to the elements. It was the standard that backed our dollar as well as the material used for our most precious objects. It is valued for its permanence. Within the gold paintings, Adibi has continued her use of organic materials, mixing essential plant oils with paint, including frankincense, neroli, myrrh, turmeric, lemon and others.

Through the monochrome, stripe and pour pieces Adibi plays with compositional strategies, displacing preordained picture making. Varying in appearance, the same material substances comprise each type of painting. The grid remains a mainstay. Adibi's grids are not made of perfectly straight lines and 90-degree angles rather they are embodied. There is an insistence on the hand – erasures, finger marks and imperfections are present.

*Substance* was made by Adibi while she was a fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University in 2013-14. She has received grants from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation in both 2008 and 2013. In 2007 the Terra Foundation awarded her a fellowship in Giverny, France. She has shown at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Churner and Churner, Southfirst, Halsey McKay Gallery and the Andy Warhol Museum. In 2010 Adibi curated *Gold in Braddock* an exhibition of 17 artists in Braddock, PA. In 2013 her work was presented at the Armory Show Focus, curated by Eric Shiner.