

# NANCY HOFFMAN GALLERY

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Katerina Lanfranco

These paintings have come as a surprise to me. They are richly textured and deep, in terms of color, value, and visual layering. They are both an embrace and an escape from the disorientation of everyday life during this pandemic. Chaos is accepted, even welcomed in these new works as an unavoidable part of life to be honored. Layers of torn fabric, yarn, synthetic flowers are embedded into the paintings' surfaces overlaid with glitter, sand, and paint. The many layers of paint applications and diverse techniques speak to the cacophony of modern life.

Images of flora emerge, but unusual and intense versions of what we are used to. Without planning it, the virus becomes represented through abstracted spherical forms, that also represent an optimistic expansion and the celebration of life.

I wanted these paintings to be unabashedly expressive and wild. I continue to explore themes of nature, yet instead of reflecting or illustrating nature I'm attempting to embody the organic force of nature that seems disordered, but proves to have its own systematic order - more corporeal, and less cerebral. Colors shift in hues and values to simulate a kind of visual and spatial meandering; creating a space for rest, reflection, and relief. There is a flow that feels both invigorating, and meant to be deeply soothing.

Quarantine has been a very strenuous time for me. I am married to a frontline worker who was infected early on during the pandemic and we felt like we were making up methods to handle the "new normal" in pace with what was being established on a state and national level. In the end, I always strive for harmony and balance in my work. These are my core values and beliefs, and these works are the sites of the biggest struggles and victories I've had to create this unity. I believe in the healing potential of art, and in its ability to provide a conduit for the expression of conflict, tension, and ultimate resolution.