

## **PEREGRINEPROGRAM**

500 W Cermak Rd #727, Chicago, IL 60616 • [www.peregrineprogram.com](http://www.peregrineprogram.com) • 312.451.1780 [ed@peregrineprogram.com](mailto:ed@peregrineprogram.com)



**Night Painting 1995-2010**  
SUSANNA COFFEY

April 16 – May 7, 2010

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### **Night Painting 1995-2010**

Susanna Coffey

“Susanna Coffey could be called the Robert Ryman of self-portraiture,” according to New York Times art critic Ken Johnson. Aside from her signature portraits though, Susanna Coffey consistently pursues other subjects. More recently, she exhibited a series of flower paintings (at the Jerald Melberg Gallery) in South Carolina. In the body of work leading up to that, the flowers were usually shown with paintings depicting war and devastation. Presented on their own, the flower paintings read very differently, and more importantly remind us of Coffey’s constancy as a painter first and foremost.

To work at painting is to work at many things, including the perception of color. We see that kind of effort in Coffey’s night paintings. Shown at PEREGRINEPROGRAM for the first time as a group, these small landscapes were all made at night, painted in the dark. This practice of observing the appearances of darkness is motivated by a studious love and by the need to ‘renew’ the painter’s eyes. In painting landscapes without green trees, she has to learn to sidestep conventional ways of using color.

Coffey attributes the start of the series to Millet’s ‘Starry Night’ at the Yale Art Gallery. That picture challenged her to study and paint the color of night, and over the years she has continued to make night paintings, often in late fall or winter, in the countryside or urban parks. The most recent paintings were made this March, looking at Grant Park from a rooftop after a day of teaching. PEREGRINEPROGRAM is pleased to present a selection of this work in ‘Night Painting 1995-2010’.

Susanna Coffey lives and works in Chicago and New York City. A graduate of The University of Connecticut and Yale School of Art, her work is represented by The Alpha Gallery in Boston, The Maya Polsky Gallery in Chicago, Taylor Bercier Gallery in New Orleans, Galeria Isabel Ignacio in Seville Spain, Pi 37 Gallery in Athens Greece and others. She has received awards from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, The Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation, The NEA, The American Academy of Arts and Letters, The Marie Walsh Sharpe Foundation, and The National Academy of Design. Her work is included in the collections of museums including The Art Institute of Chicago, The Akron Museum of Art, The Minneapolis Museum Of Art, The Honolulu Academy of Art, and The Weatherspoon Art Museum. Since 1982 she has taught at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago and is now the F.H. Sellers Professor in Painting.

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PEREGRINEPROGRAM presents Susanna Coffey’s ‘Night Painting 1995-2010’ from April 16 – May 7, 2010. An opening reception will be held Friday, April 16, from 6-9 p.m.

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Pearl Street, Kahn Studio, 2006  
Oil on panel, 6" x 5"

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Pebbles, 2003  
Oil on panel, 6" x 8"

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Nighthouse from Starfield, 2000  
Oil on panel, 5" x 8"

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Main Street Moon, Johnson Vermont, 2000  
Oil on panel, 5" x 8"

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Skowhegan, 2010  
Oil on panel, 8" x 6"

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Grant Park 3/25/10, 2010  
Oil on panel, 8" x 6"



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Falls, Pines, 1996  
Oil on panel, 6" x 8"

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Chicago River, 2004  
Oil on panel, 8" x 6"

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Clay Hill Road, 1995  
Oil on panel, 8" x 6"

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Skowhegan Upper Field, 2007  
Oil on canvas, 7" x 5"

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Moon Over Stars, 1999  
Oil on panel, 3½" x 5"

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High Moon Over Mt. Mansfield, 1999  
Oil on panel, 3½" x 5"

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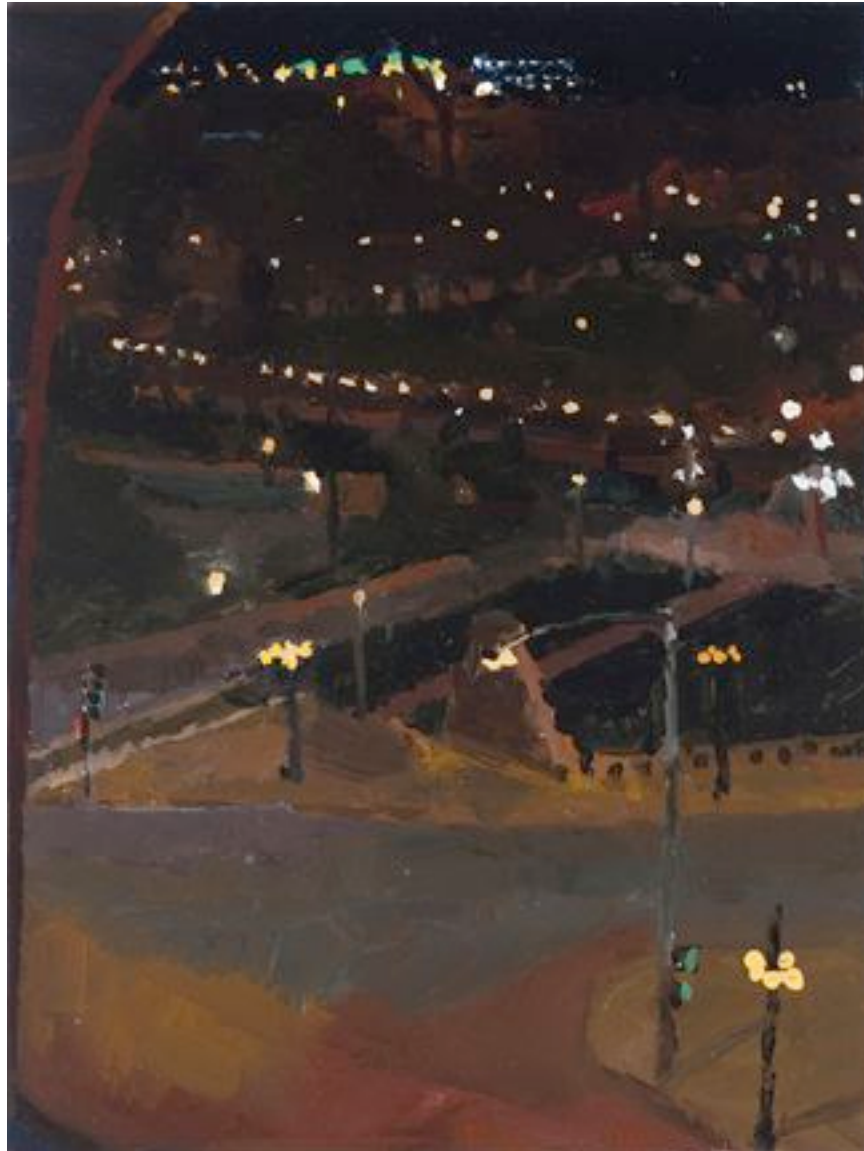
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Florence, Sta. Trinita, 1998  
Oil on panel, 6" x 8"

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Grant Park, 3/26/2010, 2010  
Oil on panel, 8" x 6"



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McCormick Place, April 2010, 2010  
Oil on panel, 3" x 5"