

## **Eva Faye's Transparent Drawings and White Series**

A soft northern light permeates Norwegian born artist, Eva Faye's recent work. The White Series are oils on linen and panels that contain a delicate charcoal tracery of nature derived patterns. Her Transparent Drawings consist of floating drawings on layers of vellum, in which translucent sheets of frosty grey white are delicately pinpricked, roughly slashed and cut in repetitive biomorphic patterns. Fractal swirls shimmer in a state of silvery flux, micro universes in a process of formation and decomposition. Molecules and cells, flower petals and stalks, chains of DNA swim in a primordial haze.

In the simplest pieces, a single sheet of vellum floats in front of the wall, standing out slightly so that the shadows cast through the openings become another element. The shadows separate into pink and blue, pale spectral rays of broken light - as if filtered through a prism.

Originally vellum was made of prepared goatskin or calfskin, and used in medieval manuscripts. Faye's use of modern paper vellum refers back to the body, the under layers are coated with swathes of deep color like blood pulsing beneath skin. She recombines layers in various ways that reveal and obscure - a palimpsest of transparent leaves.

Her subtle marks recall minimalism - Lucio Fontana and Eva Hesse, and such decorative arts as embossed metal and lace making. On the studio worktable are rows of tools for piercing the vellum- awls, an array of nails, knives and screwdrivers. There is a move towards an even sparer abstraction in her continued practice of drawing with light. Instead of depicting the effects of light, she employs light as an element in the work- the whitest shade of white and all the colors it contains.

*Rose Burlingham, 2010*