

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MIE OLISE

Crystal Bites of Dust

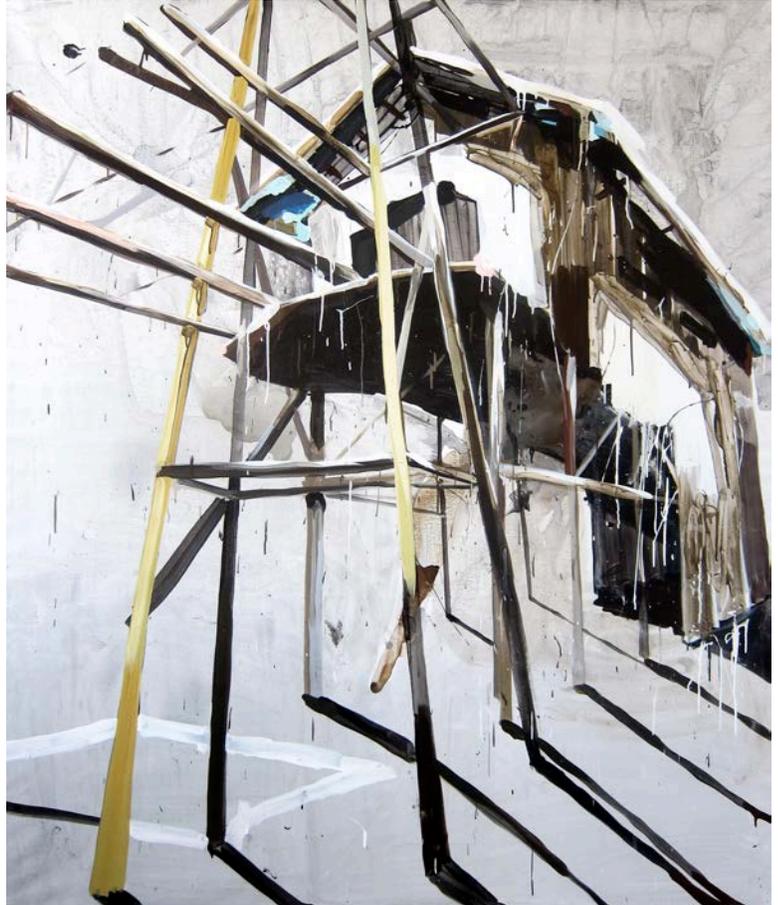
January 11, 2013 – March 9, 2013

Artist Reception:

Friday, January 11, 6:30 – 8:30PM

Barbara Davis Gallery is proud to announce the upcoming solo-exhibition by Danish artist Mie Olise entitled *Crystal Bites of Dust*, opening Friday, January 11, 2013, with an artist reception from 6:30 – 8:30pm.

HOUSTON, Texas – For this exhibition, Danish artist Mie Olise unveils her exploration of the Gowanus Canal in the New York City borough of Brooklyn through a series of new paintings that investigate the impact of industrialism on the surrounding area. Laden with desolation and abandonment, Olise viewed the Gowanus Canal as a subject worth reviving and uplifting, as her paintings romanticize the seemingly forgotten monuments, factories, and landscapes. Inspired by Robert Smithson’s article “Monuments of the Passaic,” published in 1967 in *ArtForum*, Olise recreates his journey along the Hackensack River in New Jersey. As Smithson traveled west of Manhattan, toward the Passaic bridges of New Jersey, describing the decaying monuments and ruins near the Hackensack River, Olise journeyed east to Brooklyn and found a similar situation surrounding the Gowanus Canal. Smithson documented his voyage with an Instamatic 400 and referred to the deserted locations he photographed as “non-spaces.” Olise mirrors his concept by illustrating the scenery of the Gowanus Canal through a series of monumental paintings, in order to find what she calls the empty “pores” of the city, spaces left behind to fall into dust. Olise examines the monuments of Gowanus, the hidden spaces beneath the bridges, the uninhabited factories, and the polluted waters of the canal, and ultimately gives them new life by painting them, thus solidifying their existence and transforming them into “crystals of industrialization.”



Mie Olise, *Loading House*, 2012, acrylic and water from Gowanus Canal on canvas, 91 x 77 in.

About the Artist:

Mie Olise lives and works in Copenhagen and New York. Her work investigates narratives relating to specific places and desolate structures. Olise has travelled to numerous places in different states of disrepair, including an abandoned ghost town in Russia by the Arctic Circle, in order to research, collect stories, and later subjectively develop particular layers of the found truths.

While working on her solo-exhibition *The Silent Station* at Nikolaj Kunsthal in Copenhagen, Olise went on a journey from the island of Mors, where she grew up in Denmark, to Newfoundland, Espen Arnakke, and Holland, in the quest of tracking down the ship with the identical name. The collection of stories Olise found on this journey has been a tremendous generator for the projects in her exhibition, *Crystal Bites of Dust*, as concept often determines the media in her practice.

Mie Olise was born on the Island of Mors, Denmark, in 1974. She received her MFA from the Central St. Martins School of Art, London in 2007. Her solo exhibitions include Skive New Museum of Contemporary Art, Denmark, with accompanying catalog; Honor Fraser Gallery, Los Angeles; Barbara Davis Gallery, Houston, TX; and the Nikolaj, Copenhagen Contemporary Art Center, Copenhagen, Denmark. She was a finalist in the Saatchi Sensation Show, Saatchi Gallery, London and her work has been included in exhibitions at Ystad Museum of Art, Ystad, Sweden; Whitstable Biennale, Kent, United Kingdom; and Bloomberg Space, London. In addition to completing a residency at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Olise has also completed residencies at the International Studio and Curatorial Program (ISCP) in New York, and the NES Artist Residency in Iceland. She has received awards from the Danish Art Council, the Rockwool Foundation, and the Niels Wessel Bagge Art Foundation. Her work has been reviewed by ArtForum, Art Review, FlashArt International, and Magazinet Kunst. In 2013, Olise will open a new travelling exhibition starting at Museo de Arte Acarigua-Araure in Venezuela.

***Crystal Bites of Dust* opens Friday, January 11, with an artist reception from 6:30 – 8:30PM. This exhibition is on view January 11, 2013 through March 9, 2013.** For more information, please contact Barbara Davis Gallery at 713.520.9200 or info@barbaradavisgallery.com.

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