

Regarding the Incidence of Purpose

a memorial retrospective of the work of

Sandy Chism

curated by Matthew Weldon Showman

January 1st – February 7th, 2014

Opening Receptions

Saturday, January 4th, 5-7pm

Saturday, January 11th, 5-8pm

Saturday, February 1st, 6-9pm

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(New Orleans, Louisiana) December, 2013



Jonathan Ferrara Gallery is proud to announce *Regarding the Incidence of Purpose*, a memorial retrospective of the work of artist **Sandy Chism**, curated by **Matthew Weldon Showman**. One year after the artist's passing, the exhibition honors Chism and her work. *Regarding the Incidence of Purpose* will be on view from January 1st through February 7th, 2014, with opening receptions on **Saturday, January 4th, 5-7pm, Saturday January 11th, 5-8pm and February 1st, 6-9pm.**

Sandy Chism was a Professor of Painting in the Newcomb Department of Art at Tulane University from 1996 - 2012. She had a BFA from University of Kansas and an MFA from University of Arizona where she studied under famed painter Robert Colescott. Chism had six solo exhibitions with the gallery since 1999 and her work has been exhibited locally, nationally and internationally. In July of 2000, a ten-year survey of her work was exhibited at the *Contemporary Arts Center*, entitled *Sandy Chism: A Survey* and included paintings as well as large scaled mixed-media installations. A catalog was published by the *Contemporary Arts Center*. She has received grants from the *Louisiana Division of the Arts* and the *Pollock Krasner Foundation* and been awarded residencies at the *Santa Fe Art Institute* and the *First International Colony of Artists* in Debrecen, Hungary. Her paintings are featured in the permanent collections of the *New Orleans Museum of Art*, *Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation Collection* in Los Angeles, *Emprise Bank* in Wichita, Kansas, and *Liquitex Paints*, New Jersey. Chism's work has been reviewed in *Art in America*, *New Orleans Art Review*, *The Times-Picayune*, *Gambit Weekly*, *Forum Magazine* and *The Journal Santa Fe*. She is known for her works that combine the ethereal and the concrete. Similarly, her work often incorporates imagery to describe the flux between opposites in nature such as the cycles of life and death, the single versus the multiple, the micro and the macro, stillness and frenzy and chaos versus order.

Showman describes the artist's body of work:

Regarding the Incidence of Purpose; this phrase inherently poses juxtaposition in concept. Similarly, Sandy Chism's paintings are wrought with these sorts of contradictions: strength/weakness, conflict/accord, natural/man-made, real/imagined, hope/despair . . . This internal struggle can be seen in all of the various bodies of work that Chism produced over her 35 year career. Presented side by side in this exhibition, these works illustrate one seamless narrative of struggle, memory and nature. The paintings consistently air poetically towards the positive. Chism created haunting yet uplifting visions to profoundly inspire the viewer.

On January 2nd, 2013, Chism died from ovarian cancer at age 55. Her spirit lives on through her work. The Sandy Chism Estate is represented by Jonathan Ferrara Gallery.



JONATHAN FERRARA GALLERY
400a Julia Street New Orleans, LA 70130 504.522.5471 tel 253.399.1649 fx
www.jonathanferraragallery.com