

ATLANTIC GALLERY

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718: Changing Neighborhoods in Brooklyn and Queens

An exhibit of approximately thirty urban landscape paintings by Pamela Talese opens at The Atlantic Gallery on Tuesday, September 9th 2003, with a reception at 6pm. *718: Changing Neighborhoods in Brooklyn and Queens* is the first part of the artist's ongoing examination of urban social history as represented by its structures, and will be on view through September 27th 2003.

These vigorous renderings in oil done from life, *en plein air*, document the rapidly changing neighborhoods of these two boroughs. The paintings focus on old industrial structures, hidden classical architecture, curious monuments, and features of the city that once were vital but are now disappearing as a result of inexorable decay or the onslaught of development.

A native of Manhattan who moved to Queens a decade ago, the artist was entranced by the space and silence of her new industrial neighborhood. She was further impressed by the attitude of the residents. "It reminded me of my midtown childhood in a city on the verge of bankruptcy. New York in the 70's looked different, obviously, but the neighborhoods also felt different. More grit, less glitz...and though I know it's absurd, I'm still a little wistful when thinking of the city I grew up in."

The artist often travels to these various sites by bicycle. Her small paintings of carefully observed urban subjects reflect her romantic view of old New York, but are not without wit and wonderment at the monumentality of old gas tanks or the grace found in a graveyard.

Ms. Talese's attraction to these sites is further augmented by her obvious delight in weather and its effects. The purely visual sub-theme of these paintings is about light, as the artist has a knack for finding subjects that catch the sun and sky easily, and paints them keeping the structures central, powerful, gritty and modern.

Gallery Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 6pm.