

JOYCE KOZLOFF

Maps + Patterns

March 26 – April 25, 2015

Opening Reception:
Thursday, March 26, 6:00 – 8:00 pm



If I Were a Botanist: The Journey, (detail) 2014. Mixed media on canvas, 54 x 361 inches overall

DC Moore Gallery is pleased to present *Joyce Kozloff: Maps + Patterns*. This exhibition of new mixed media work synthesizes Kozloff's interest in the meaning of maps with the forms of the Pattern and Decoration painting she pioneered in the 1970s. A catalogue featuring an interview with Kozloff by Carey Lovelace accompanies the exhibition.

Spurred by recent travel along the silk route, Kozloff has returned for the first time to the Islamic star patterns that structured her early art. A group of works titled *If I Were a Botanist* and *If I Were an Astronomer* revisit two artist books Kozloff made in 1977, in which she manipulated the black-and-white diagrams in Islamic geometry books to create kaleidoscopic compositions saturated with color. In characteristic defiance of the hierarchies of high and low, Kozloff considered this work to be "a cross between coloring books and illuminated manuscripts."

Using these earlier pages as templates, Kozloff employed digital processes to reimagine the arrangement and scale of the patterns for her new work. She then infused these stunningly intricate paintings with collage elements comprised entirely of trial proofs from previous projects. Merging the biographical and the political, each panel becomes a microcosm of the artist's career. In *If I Were a Botanist: the Journey*, patterns radiate and converge in constellations of brilliant color and interlocking shapes unfurling across some thirty feet of canvas. The maps in *If I Were a Botanist: the Pale* and *If I Were a Botanist: Gaza* invite comparison between today's occupation of Palestine and the Pale of Settlement, the territory within Imperial Russia restricted for Jews from 1835-1917, to which Kozloff traces her ancestry.

Throughout the 10 x 10 foot surface of *The Tempest*, Kozloff repopulates an 18th century Chinese world map with hundreds of excerpts from her previous work. Because she has long interrogated the implications of mapmaking in her art, Kozloff has collected and been given dozens of globe-themed tchotchkes. These tokens of friendship—as varied as earrings, ashtrays, erasers, napkin holders, piggy banks, key chains, paper weights and yoyos—are halved and affixed to the panels. Art historical imagery featuring the famous cartographers of the Renaissance, who "explain things" while pointing to globes, share space with the superhero Captain Planet and military figures including Joan of Arc and Napoleon. *The Tempest* conflates eastern and western systems for representing the world with ancient, early modern, and contemporary attempts to understand, navigate, and use it.

Joyce Kozloff earned her MFA from Columbia University in 1967. She has been an activist in the feminist art movement since 1970. After a sustained commitment to public art throughout the 1980s and 1990s, she returned to

(over)

a studio practice that encompasses painting, sculpture, installations, printmaking, and photography. Her work is included in public collections such as the Brooklyn Museum of Art, NY; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, CA; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Modern Art, New York; National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; and Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.

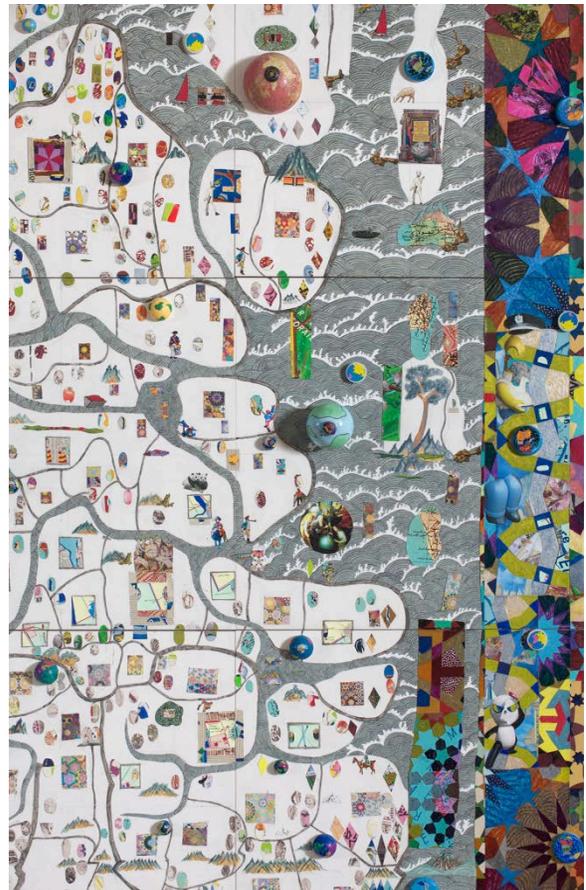
Joyce Kozloff: Social Studies, an exhibition of mixed media works based on vintage French schoolroom maps, will be on view concurrently at the French Institute Alliance Française, 22 East 60th Street, NYC, from February 25 through April 25.

The artist would like to thank Morgan R. Levy and Emily Kiacz.

ALSO ON VIEW: Alexi Worth: Green Glass Doors

Gallery Talk:
Thursday, April 16 at 6:00 PM

Joyce Kozloff in conversation with Alexi Worth
Alexi Worth in conversation with Joyce Kozloff



The Tempest (detail), 2014. Acrylic, pencil, collage, and assemblage on panel, 120 x 120 inches overall

DC MOORE GALLERY specializes in contemporary and twentieth-century art. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm. For more information, for photographs, or to arrange a viewing, please call 212-247-2111 or email Lily Zhou at lzhou@dcmooregallery.com.