

REBECCA NOLDA



STRATA & DATA

September 29th thru
October 26th, 2018



Studio J Contemporary • 6601 4th St. NW Suite L • Los Ranchos, NM 87107

The overlap of STRATA and DATA

These two themes come together in this exhibition, not because they influenced each other when I created the paintings, but because they are two points of view that reflect an “imagining.”

STRATA. I was trying to get at the feel of geological formations. What is it like to have layers of solid rock pushed together with glimpses of other rock pieces peeking through? I liked the thought of a face for that idea. I think I was influenced by the Lord of the Rings—all of that rumbling and shifting and wide vistas. I wondered what cross-sections of rocks would look like if transmuted into paintings. Some layers would be squished, some protruding, some dominating. Different colors. Lots of weight. The seams separating the blocky layers in seeming tension. The weightiness really attracted me. I pretty much strayed from that starting idea, but that was my inspiration.

DATA. I was imagining a surface that gets covered up in time, leaving behind bits of content. The content might be notes, text, iconography, formulas, symbols, etc. They are all hidden behind a wall of paint, sticking out here and there to tease an interpretation.

The “piecing” of the content in the data series represents the idea of collecting or gathering evidence in a kind of urban archaeology—a compilation of mark-making, a nod at symbols and scientific notations, and a backhanded reference to written language. I imagine all of these bits of things sticking out in the data paintings as being tethered to some reality behind the paint...all taken care of and accounted for, an indirect narrative.

The paintings in this series were very much a process of discovery (no preliminary sketches), starting with random washes of color, marks, scribbles, and incidental colored shapes. From there I reduced what was “stuck out” by painting over most of the surface, choosing to leave the stuff I liked—that was the discovery.

The STRATA...



Mapping the strata II
acrylic on gallery-wrapped canvas
48 x 36 x 1.5



Mapping the strata IV
acrylic on gallery-wrapped canvas
48 x 36 x 1.5



Mapping the strata VI
acrylic on gallery-wrapped canvas
48 x 36 x 1.5



Mapping the strata VII
acrylic on gallery-wrapped canvas
48 x 24 x 1.5



Mapping the strata IX
acrylic on gallery-wrapped canvas
48 x 36 x 1.5



Mapping the strata X
acrylic on gallery-wrapped canvas
48 x 36 x 1.5



Mapping the strata XI
acrylic on gallery-wrapped canvas
48 x 24 x 1.5



Mapping the strata XII
acrylic on gallery-wrapped canvas
48 x 36 x 1.5



Little strata, 1 thru 10
acrylic on cradled panel
each 8 x 8 x 1.5

The DATA...



Brave, sweet, pink
mixed media on gallery-wrapped canvas
36 x 36 x 1.5



Lullaby
mixed media on gallery-wrapped canvas
36 x 36 x 1.5



Sentinels - Keeping the code
mixed media on gallery-wrapped canvas
36 x 48 x 1.5

A note about mark-making: I first used random mark-making and imaginary schematics in drawings I did in graduate school. For me, it's like make-believe science or make-believe language. I imagine that I was partly influenced by my love of Asian art—the calligraphy of China and Japan seems provocative and beautiful. Especially since I can't read it or make sense of it. I like it simply as visual imagery, not confined to meaning.

On some level I want to reproduce that. Since my marks are truly imaginary or random, they are not tied to content, but merely suggest that there might be some content there if you (I) could just figure it out.



p. s. eternity
mixed media on gallery-wrapped canvas
36 x 36 x 1.5



Wild horses couldn't drag me
mixed media on gallery-wrapped canvas
36 x 36 x 1.5

Behind the scenes

I always find it interesting to see how a painting comes together. For me it's a sequence of decisions of color, shapes, etc. that I work with until I'm happy with the outcome. Here's how *Mapping the strata IX* came together:



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



Mapping the strata XI
acrylic on gallery-wrapped canvas
48 x 24 x 1.5

And here's what's under the final layer of *Lullaby*:



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Lullaby
mixed media on gallery-wrapped canvas
36 x 36 x 1.5

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