

Karen Schifano, a painter based in Brooklyn, is intrigued by the mind's ability to recognize, conceptualize and manifest spatial constructs simply through the use of shape, edge and color. Recent inspiration derives from theater stages, mouths, product labels, doorways and windows; framed openings that can also be read as object or symbol, abstract shape and metaphor.

The last few years have brought a focus on making a series of smaller paintings that try to meld thought more overtly with feeling. Narrative allusions have been allowed to emerge and take their place "on the stage", a sense of humor as well, all stemming from an urgency to create something meaningful and maybe lasting on an intimate scale.

Born in 1955, Karen received a BA in Art History from Swarthmore College, an MFA from Hunter College, and fellowships from the MacDowell Colony and the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown. Karen has exhibited widely in this country as well as in Europe, Australia and Japan. Recent notable shows include *NY Art Live!* at Umeda Gallery in Osaka, Japan, *The Warmth of Winter* at the National Arts Club, NY, NY, *Doppler Shift* at the New Jersey Center for the Visual Arts in Summit, NJ, *Color, Shape and Form* at Galerie Gris in Hudson, NY, *Capture the Rapture* at CB1 Gallery in LA, and *Abstract Wall Paintings III* and *Oppler*, both at Transmitter Gallery in New York City.