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CYNTHIA HAWKINS REGARDING ENTANGLED MAPS

Preview: Thursday 24 September, 6-8 pm
Exhibition: 25 September - 31 October 2026

Hollybush Gardens is pleased to present *Regarding Entangled Maps*, Cynthia Hawkins' second solo show with the gallery, which brings together a series of works on paper in acrylic and oil bar made in France and New York over the past year.

Hawkins has investigated the potential of abstraction since the 1970s. Her process-oriented practice explores diverse literary, philosophical, and scientific influences and embraces the improvisational, whilst simultaneously creating a systemised space for her continually evolving vocabulary.

The new works develop from the artist's ongoing series *Wander/Wonder: Maps Necessary for a Walk in 4D* (2023-), which refer directly to a series of drawings Hawkins made for a sculpture titled *A Walk in 4D* (1978/79), based on the journey from her Upper West Side apartment to the 86th Street subway station in New York, which she situated in the fourth dimension: space-time, as she perceived it at that moment, speaking to one's movement through time and the world. The series is also inspired by Marshall Island stick charts, made from wooden strips and cowrie shells, which represent a system of mapping ocean swells and wind patterns. The charts were studied by inhabitants of the Marshall Islands prior to voyages on the Pacific Ocean, as a form of cartography reliant on memory and bodily navigation.

Hawkins' paper works are often smaller in scale than her paintings, with varying intensity; they are not preliminary studies, but rather, executed during the course of making the canvases, as ongoing experimentations as to their possible outcomes. Writing on the new works, she notes: 'These works on paper have a place among the paintings I make. That place could be a site of reprieve, redress for the large canvases. *Regarding* offers me an opportunity, or a form of respite. The works on paper are born out of the big stuff, but they open the door to a kind of gesture which is not available in the larger works. They offer a facility, the *wander, wonder* of the paper; the content sometimes trying to make room for the linear that has not yet been wholly present, but seeks to become more so.'

The works are of various dimensions. However, the larger works seem to me, and I want them to behave like the big stuff. In *Regarding Entangled Maps*, I am searching for what that means, what it looks like. These maps reside with me, with us, here... or do they reside elsewhere out of reach? I think I am opening my arms to the great *down here* and *up there*.'

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Cynthia Hawkins (b. 1950, Queens, New York; lives and works in Poughkeepsie, New York) has exhibited widely in New York and the United States throughout her career. She received her doctorate in American Studies from the University of Buffalo, SUNY, with a dissertation titled, 'African American Agency and the Art Object, 1868-1917'. From 2007-2021, she was director and curator at the Bertha V.B. Lederer Gallery, SUNY Geneseo, New York.

Selected solo exhibitions include *Maps Necessary for a Walk in 4D: Chapter 4*, Hollybush Gardens, London (2025); *Maps Necessary for a Walk in 4D*, Paula Cooper, New York (2025); *Gwynfor's Soup, or the Proximity of Matter*, Ortuzar Projects, New York (2023); *Natural Things, 1996-99*, STARS, Los Angeles (2022); *Clusters: Stellar and Earthly*, Buffalo Science Museum, Buffalo (2009); *Selected Works: 1990-1996*, Queens College Art Center (1997); *New Works: The Currency of Meaning*, Cinque Gallery, New York (1989); *Cynthia Hawkins*, Frances Wolfson Art Center, Miami (1986); and *Cynthia Hawkins*, Just Above Midtown, New York (1981).

Hawkins is included in the forthcoming group exhibition *Hard Art* at MoMA PS1, New York, opening in November 2026. Recent group exhibitions include *Not All Travellers Walk Roads*, 36th Bienal de São Paulo

(2025-2026); *From the Studio: Fifty-Eight Years of Artists in Residence*, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York (2025-2026) and *Just Above Midtown: Changing Spaces*, Museum of Modern Art, New York (2022).

Hawkins has received numerous awards, including the Helen Frankenthaler Award for Painting (2023); the Black Metropolis Research Consortium Fellowship (2009); The Herbert and Irene Wheeler Foundation Grant (1995); and the Brooklyn Museum Art School Scholarship (1972). CARA presented Hawkins with its annual Legacy Award in October 2024. Her work is in numerous public collections, including the Studio Museum in Harlem, New York; the Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York; Kenkeleba Gallery, New York; the La Grange Art Museum, Georgia; and the U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC.

In 2024, BOMB published an expansive Oral History with Hawkins and *Art Notes*, *Art*, a new publication that records her early work and the Black gallery scene of 1970s and 1980s New York, was published by CARA.

For press enquiries and further information, please contact: grace@hollybushgardens.co.uk

Gallery Hours: Wednesday - Saturday, 11am - 6pm or by appointment.