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HONORING A SHORT CAREER

Moira Dryer, 11R

By Robin Pogrebin



Moira Dryer's "Captain Courageous" (1987-88). Moira Dryer, Charles Benton/11R

As a student at Cooper Union some years ago, Augusto Arbizo saw the work of Moira Dryer at the Mary Boone Gallery and it made a lasting impression.

So Mr. Arbizo, director of the gallery 11R (formerly Eleven Rivington), decided to inaugurate his 195 Chrystie Street location with his second solo exhibition of that artist, who died of cancer in 1992 at the age of 34.

"Her work always stayed with me," he said. "I had a personal connection to it."

The show, which runs through Feb. 7, features Ms. Dryer's paintings and works on paper from throughout her short career, including watercolors, and collages that have not been on view before.

Mr. Arbizo also includes printed matter to provide context for those unfamiliar with Ms. Dryer, who was born in Toronto.

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She was a former studio assistant to Elizabeth Murray and Julian Schnabel and also worked as a prop and set maker for New York theaters. Her work is in the permanent collections of the MoMA, the Whitney and the Guggenheim.

"I would go on studio visits and bring up her name," Mr. Arbizo said. "None of these young artists knew her."

The exhibition seems well timed, given that Lily Siegel, an independent curator, is working on a comprehensive Dryer exhibition and catalog that has yet to find a home.

"She was so gifted," Mr. Arbizo said of Ms. Dryer. "There's no knowing what work she might have made."