

Manuel Alvarez Bravo  
 Viola Frey  
 Christian Garnett  
 Katurah Hutcheson  
 Janice Krasnow  
 Matvey Levenstein  
 Suzanne McClelland  
 Gerhard Richter  
 Carol Scymanski  
 Rémy Zaugg

curated by: Faye Hirsch

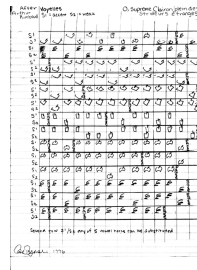
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## Do It Yourself: An Interview with Faye Hirsch

by Fanny Horton



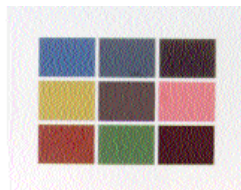
Carol Scymanski O. Supreme Clairon  
 plein des Strideurs etranges (after  
 Rumbaoui) 1996 pencil on loose-leaf  
 paper 11" x 8.25"

**Fanny Horton:** What is this exhibition about, and have you been disappointed at all in your first experience as a curator?

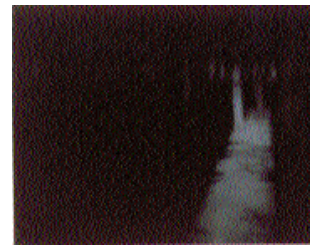
**Faye Hirsch:** I wanted to get one of Andy Warhol's 'Do It Yourself' paintings for this exhibition, but we were told by the Andy Warhol Foundation that they are all in

Europe and worth millions of dollars. Much to my surprise, however, it turns out there are 'Do It Yourself' drawings, and that Ileana Sonnabend owns one, but she didn't want

Gerhard Richter 9 von 180 Farben 1971 silkscreen  
 24" x 34.3"



to lend it to the show. The more impossible it grew, the more I wanted one of the 'Do It Yourself' paintings—



Matvey Levenstein Woods 1996 oil on linen 48" x 72"

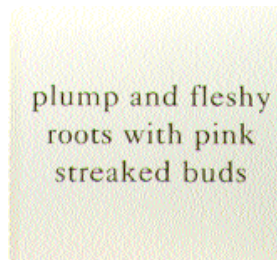
especially the 'Do It Yourself (Landscape)' listed in the Ludwig Collection in Rainer Crone's 1970 book, Andy Warhol, where it is reproduced in black and white and, in my copy of the book, on yellowing pages that have grayed the image considerably. It is evidently large, 72 by 54 inches, and probably would have been rather expensive to ship, let alone insure. This landscape is of a barn in the countryside with a rustic road running past. There

is a big, spreading tree with a gnarled trunk behind it, and a smaller house in the distance.

**FH:** What color is the barn?

**FH:** I don't

Janice Krasnow Portrait 25(Series I) 1996 oil on panel  
 24" x 22"





Katurah Hutcheson Rochelle, Rochelle  
1996 paint on cut paper 17" x 14"

know. Red, probably. Anyway, you remember that many areas are left blank in this painting and in those blank areas—which I'll bet are white in the painting, though in my cheesy reproduction (Crone's, that is), they are not really white, though I'm sure they once were—in those blank spaces are little numbers, which indicate what color they should be painted, but

aren't, because that's the whole point, you see. It's all very amusing. You know, once my girlfriend and I tried to sell that Crone book to Ursus because we had heard that it was worth quite a lot of money but wouldn't you know it, ours was just a little too yellowed and damaged to get a good price, let alone any price at all! God, did we need that money. Do you know that a mint-condition first edition of that book is worth over a thousand dollars? Anyway, I don't mean to get off track... I've been very deeply disappointed with the fact that I couldn't get even a 'Do It Yourself' drawing for my exhibition.

**FH:** Why?

**FH:** I'm sure it's because it makes me feel very small and helpless and poor. Perhaps if I had been wealthy or fashionable I might have been able to get a 'Do It Yourself' for this exhibition, where it might have had a really significant impact—that is, in my group show, where its presence amongst all the other works would have given them, and it, well, a very special frisson, in a nutshell. Have you ever seen one?

**FH:** Not in the flesh.

**FH:** I haven't either, only in these reproductions I've told you about, which I'm sure do not give a very accurate impression of the work at all, as reproductions often

don't! (For that matter, now that I think of it, the reproduction is only 10 inches high and 7-3/4 inches wide—that's quite a big difference from the actual painting!) In the 'Do It Yourself (Landscape)' in the Ludwig Collection, there are no fewer than 32 areas with the number 9, which ceases to appear altogether as you move up, so I suppose that the number 9 is intended in the quote-unquote "original" as an earth tone, or maybe green, though the tree is just chock full of 2s (there are 45 of them in the upper part of the painting...) and four in a bush below (49 altogether) so I suppose 2 is green. See, this is one of the wonderful things about color originals being reproduced in black and white—it makes counting so much easier!



Suzanne McClelland 22096a (this way) 1996 charcoal, polymer emulsion, conte and pastel on canvas 40" x 48"

**FH:** I'm certainly glad you brought your notebook so you could remember all those numbers.



Rémy Zaugg No. 19 1973-86  
paper on cotton, pencil, silkscreen, oil and varnish 78.5" x 68.75"

**FH:** My God, Fanny, I never go anywhere without a pad and paper—I'm a writer, you know, and can be caught scribbling at all hours in all places. The subway, restaurants... I'm sure you, of all people, understand.



Viola Frey Gathering Together Western Civilization IV 1995 ceramic 30" x 18.5" x 16.5"

eventually something so blank as to circumvent expression altogether. Not at all like those wise horticulturists who had a more generous and expansive attitude toward color: take Mr. Russell, certain of whose lupins gained wide recognition; many distinct colors are still in cultivation, such as 'Limelight' and the blue-and-white bicolor 'Vogue.' And those that aren't? Whence those colors?

**FH:** Anyway, to continue: There are plenty of ones in the painting—29 altogether, and exclusively in the top part.

Another tone of green, maybe? Bits of blue sky peeking through? There are also—and I think this must be significant—29 numbers 16.

**FH:** Well.

**FH:** Yes. I'll be cool about it if someone out there with a more scholarly approach wants to do

**FH:** Mmm. One does marvel that somebody at some point decided both to extend a spectrum of possibilities to the masses of persons who yearned for any and all manner of color yet systematized and limited it inasmuch that it might be transformed into a force of order, nay control, and

something with all this raw data. (A footnote would be nice.) The 16s are all over the painting—maybe they are yellow, representing the dappling effects of sunshine. One of them is all alone in the center, near the bottom, amidst a lot of nines and sixes. Speaking of sixes, there are 19 of them, as well as six tens and sevens, four 12s, and—get this—one, single 19.

**FH:** Are you quite sure?

**FH:** Absolutely certain. One might well ask what that is supposed to be! A cherry in the cocktail!—You know what's amazing? This painting was done around the same time that Johns was making those false equivalencies between colors and color names.

Something must have been in the air. Anyway, I've been very sad about not having a 'Do It Yourself' in my very first show. It could have been the linchpin.

**FH:** It would have been the linchpin.

December 1996.



Manuel Alvarez Bravo Portrait of Freda Kahlo c. 1930 silver print (printed later) 8" x 10"

Christian Garnett untitled 1996 oil on canvas 38.25" x 30"

