

BOWERY GALLERY

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For Immediate Release

Rita Baragona
In the Light of Flowers –
Recent Paintings
April 24 - May 19, 2007

Reception:

Saturday, April 28,
3:00 - 6:00 PM

Hours:

Tuesday - Saturday,
11:00 AM - 6:00 PM



In Baragona's flower and garden paintings, colors act upon each other, creating light. Connecting energy and matter, the sensation and reflection of inner joy surround the viewer. Beneath the surface imagery of Baragona's floral paintings and oceans is a personal life-affirming connection with nature. Flowers unfold slowly, oceans change quickly; both expand time in a painting. Jed Perl wrote in *Art in America*, "What a nature painter must do is to impose some human logic or private poetry on the natural world. By this measure Baragona is a very interesting painter."

Baragona is a perceptual colorist. Her goal is to describe the flow of time in space which informs figuration. Woven into the fabric of her paintings is a fractal-order-derived self-similar patterning of color, mass, and rhythmic strokes. Jed Perl says in *The New Criterion*, "Baragona builds small, powerful structures without seeming to do much at all. The results are miniaturized visions of paradise - a paradise of yellow violet light." In another review he says, "Flower painting becomes a metaphor for painting itself, color-as-form. . . . Taken together Blaine and Baragona are the paragon of a living tradition."

This is Baragona's twelfth one-person exhibit at the Bowery Gallery. Most recently she exhibited her paintings at Fairleigh Dickinson University, Washington Art Association, East Stroudsburg University, and the Dutot Museum. Selected group shows include Kouros Gallery, Borgenicht Gallery and Midtown Payson Gallery, NY; Well Street Gallery, Fairbanks, AK; Fairleigh Dickinson University and Rider University, NJ; Lyme Academy, CT; Tallahassee Gallery, FL; Bryn Mawr College and Allentown Museum, PA; Baltimore Museum.