

THE MILE HIGH CLUB
JUST GOT MORE ACCESSIBLE.

WHEELS UP™

1-844-359-8752
WHEELSUP.COM/GOTHAM

THE MILE HIGH CLUB
JUST GOT MORE ACCESSIBLE.

WHEELS UP™

1-844-359-8752
WHEELSUP.COM/GOTHAM

THE MILE HIGH CLUB
JUST GOT MORE ACCESSIBLE.

WHEELS UP™

1-844-359-8752
WHEELSUP.COM/GOTHAM

PERSONALITIES | EVENTS | STYLE | FOOD & DRINK | LIVING | WATCHES | MAGAZINE | VIDEO

Homepage

Exhibit Highlight: "Therapy"

SEPTEMBER 22, 2011 | BY —MICHELE S. BROWN | [HOMEPAGE](#)

[Tweet](#) 0 [Share](#) 0 [Pin it](#) 0 [g+1](#) 0 [Share](#) 1



Therapy No. 5 (Bright Window) by Viviane Silvera

The relationship between a therapist and a patient can be both intimate in nature and artificial in construct. Clinical at its roots, yet sensitive and emotional in its tenor, therapy is part science and part cinema. Roles are played, and the arcs of life stories are created. While there is a certain artificiality to the experience—it normally takes place in just one room, after all—there is also a genuine if complicated interpersonal dynamic between therapist and patient. And what is it about that room, that insulated, ascetic little world that serves as the landscape for such rugged emotional journeys?

In her latest body of work—"Therapy," which is on view at [511 Gallery](#) through October 8—artist Viviane Silvera explores the fragile, complex world of psychotherapy inspired by scenes from popular film and television shows, including HBO's highly addictive drama *In Treatment* (starring Gabriel Byrne) and the Oscar winning films *Ordinary People* and *Good Will Hunting*. A loyal *In Treatment* fan, Silvera considered many films—including Woody Allen's *Interiors* and *Klute* with Jane Fonda—but ultimately chose her scenes based on body language and atmosphere. "The room is a central character, equally as important as the figures," says Silvera. "These rooms are heavy with mood, rich in contrast between the intense light outside the windows—the real world—and the dark cave of the therapy room."

FOLLOW US



- ▶ Read the Digital Issue
- ▶ Get the Newsletter
- ▶ Browse Past Issues

Search people, places, events

SEARCH →

UNDER CONSTRUCTION



SOSH-NY is proud to announce the ground breaking of The Scarlet Pearl Casino Resort on July 1st. SOSH welcomes you to explore this exciting new project and our many others

architecture . interiors . master planning

New York City 145 West 57th Street New York, New York 10019

SOSH

UNDER CONSTRUCTION



SOSH-NY is proud to announce the ground breaking of The Scarlet Pearl Casino Resort on July 1st. SOSH welcomes you to explore this exciting new project and our many others

architecture . interiors . master planning

New York City 145 West 57th Street New York, New York 10019

SOSH

Silvera's exhibit makes its bold statements through layers of powerful color. Each painting began with a single wash of color (Venetian red, cobalt blue, burnt sienna) to create a strong undertone. Then working from specific screen shots, Silvera sketched the scene in white chalk over the wash before painting over it: brown over orange, red over blue, cool on top of warm, cool on cool. "Sometimes the more information you give the viewer, the more you push them out of the painting," says Silvera, who paints with intention but revels in her viewers' storied interpretations. Her layering blurs details but intensifies the mood, creating a sense that something is smoldering underneath—not unlike the process of therapy itself.

In the four-foot-by-six-foot *Safe Passage, (In Treatment)*, the viewer can scarcely make out Byrne's profile. "April," his patient, is also abstracted. In fact, these two characters, like all the characters in the series, could be anyone. But Silvera captures an intimacy that feels immediate and relevant. In the smaller *Cross Currents, (Ordinary People)*, the interpersonal tug between the two figures is no less palpable, the body language well articulated despite the shadowiness of the figures. The patient looks to be in a state of collapse, utterly let go. But is it out of release or defeat? The eye can't help but be drawn to the distinct sense of light behind the therapist's more engaged posture—as if he is pulling the boy out of the darkness.

Looking at Silvera's work is not unlike exploring a beach in the dark—it takes some time to get situated and one's path is not readily illuminated. But whether the eye goes to the light or to the mystery of shadow first, the viewer takes his or her own unique journey through each painting. Silvera's series is a statement on the fragility and power of human connection, and it is not to be missed. *511 Gallery at Space B, 59 Franklin St., 212-255-2885*

Like what you're reading? Get it delivered straight to your inbox. Sign up now for our newsletters >>

Recommended Stories



Q&A: The Roots on Jamming with Sting & Helping Young Musicians



Look Back on the World Cup with These 10 Attractive Players



The Best Things We Ate in June

Recommended by

Previous

Next

Behind the Scenes: Gayle King and Norah O'Donnell

Cover shoot: May/June 2014 issue of *Gotham* magazine.

50%
LESS THAN
RETAIL



Highest quality sapphires
and diamonds in a hand-crafted
18kt white gold setting.



\$79,000
FOR THE SET

(212) 790-7351

henrykdiamonds.com

50%
LESS THAN
RETAIL



Highest quality sapphires
and diamonds in a hand-crafted
18kt white gold setting.



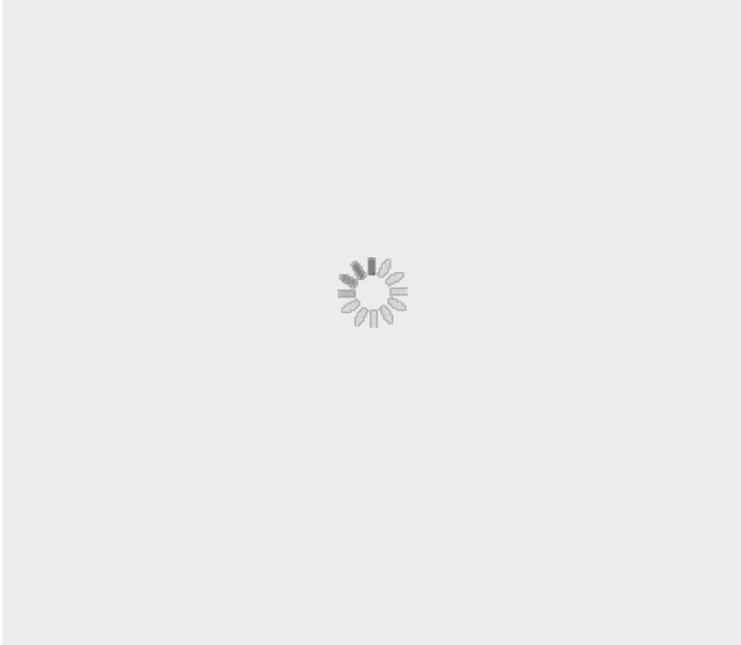
\$79,000
FOR THE SET

(212) 790-7351

henrykdiamonds.com



[NEWSLETTER SIGN UP](#) | [CONTACT US](#) | [MEDIA KIT & ADVERTISING INFO](#) | [SUBSCRIPTIONS](#) | [PRIVACY POLICY](#) | [TERMS & CONDITIONS](#) | [NICHE MEDIA LLC](#)



CLOSE