

ABATTOIR

Jen P. Harris

My paintings conjure elemental frequencies that call established structures into question. Driven by a desire to grapple with the paradoxes of the present, I've developed a visual vocabulary that bridges abstraction and figuration, autobiography and history, science and myth. Within this language, grief, restlessness and pleasure coexist. Working intuitively, I engage with the physical processes of layering, collaging, and weaving, introducing elements of pattern and clandestine imagery that pay homage to queer, occult and abstract histories.

I began making "loom-paintings" – open-warp weavings on top of paintings – in 2023. These recent works feature a variety of weave structures and increasingly large areas of unwoven warp that interact with underlying paintings to create optical vibrations. In the context of painting, textiles are often placed in the category of inert support. In my work, this assumed order is reversed, with yarn becoming an element that cannot be ignored.