

SV



Cindy Tower

# Ruin USA: New Paintings by Cindy Tower

**Over** the last few years Cindy Tower has been going to shipyards and factories around the country in search of suitable ruins. She is motivated by a life-long fascination with the making of things and a nostalgia for artisanal and industrial ingenuity. "I...grew up with a Yankee make-thrift aesthetic," she says, "where community members fixed things themselves and didn't need to buy everything new all the time. I grew up fascinated by materials and liked best to be around people that made things with their own hands. I was lucky to have a grandfather who had been a nurseryman and another who was an engineer. The women in my family were the same way, making things from scratch. I decided to paint paintings honoring vanishing American industries because everything I love is disappearing."

**Tower** has gone to sites in Texas, Connecticut and most recently the Brooklyn Navy Yard, to paint industrial ruins. Ships and shipyards are a particular focus: she has done several paintings of the engine room and other features of the SS Diamond, mothballed in the State Port of Houston in Texas (cover and following photographs).

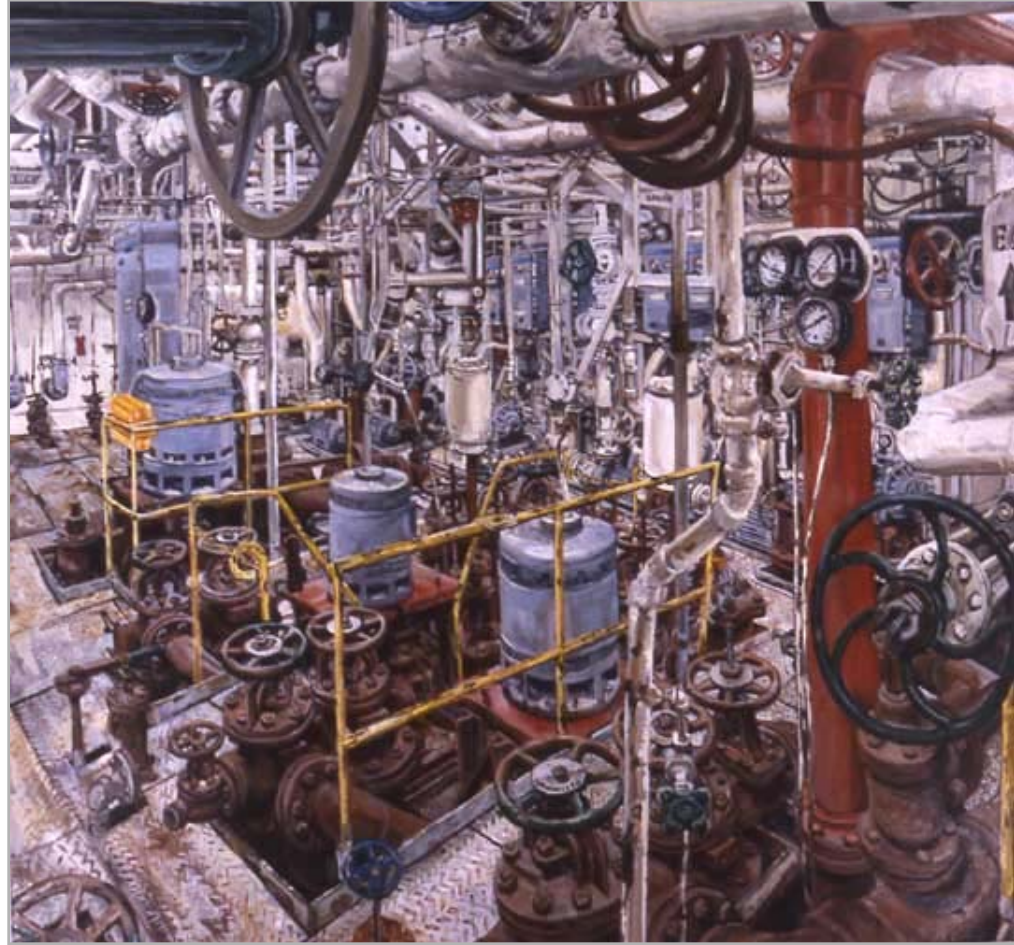


Cover, above, and following page: Cindy Tower at the Port of Houston painting the SS Diamond State.



**Tower's** working method is to paint on site, and directly from observation. Her most recent works are of views of the interior of Building 128 at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, a giant factory interior where warships were built, which is slated to be demolished. She underscores a connection between her project and “Williamsburg” - Williamsburg the well-known contemporary art epicenter, the force of gentrification, the style. In the artist’s own words:

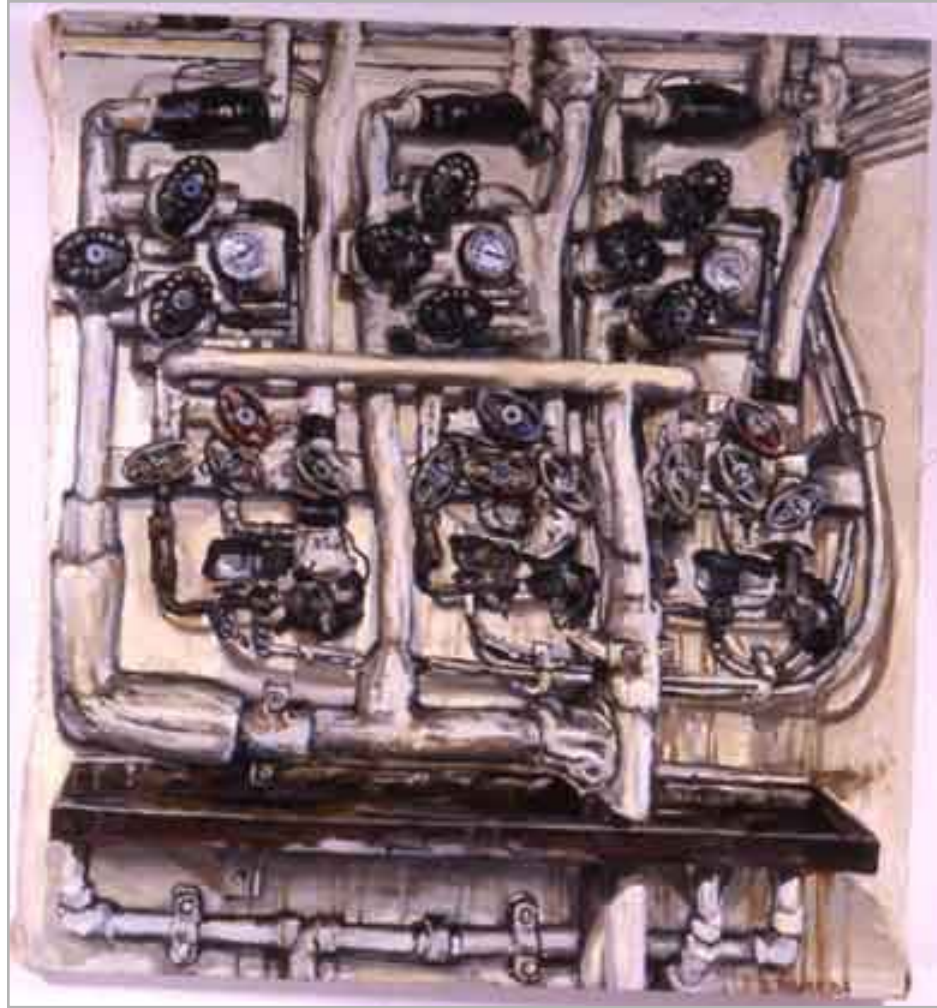
*I think of the rubble in Williamsburg, as the DNA building blocks of the contemporary artworld. Out of its rubble and ashes flashes new art that appears colorful, clean, and shiny. Walking down the streets of Williamsburg feels fake, like Vegas on a smaller scale. Change isn't what upsets me however. What I am concerned about as an artist has to do with a lack of memory and a diminished material sense. So, I've sat myself down in Williamsburg and gotten to work, out in plein-air, painting the latest property scheduled for demolition this coming November, building #128 in the Brooklyn Navy Yard.*



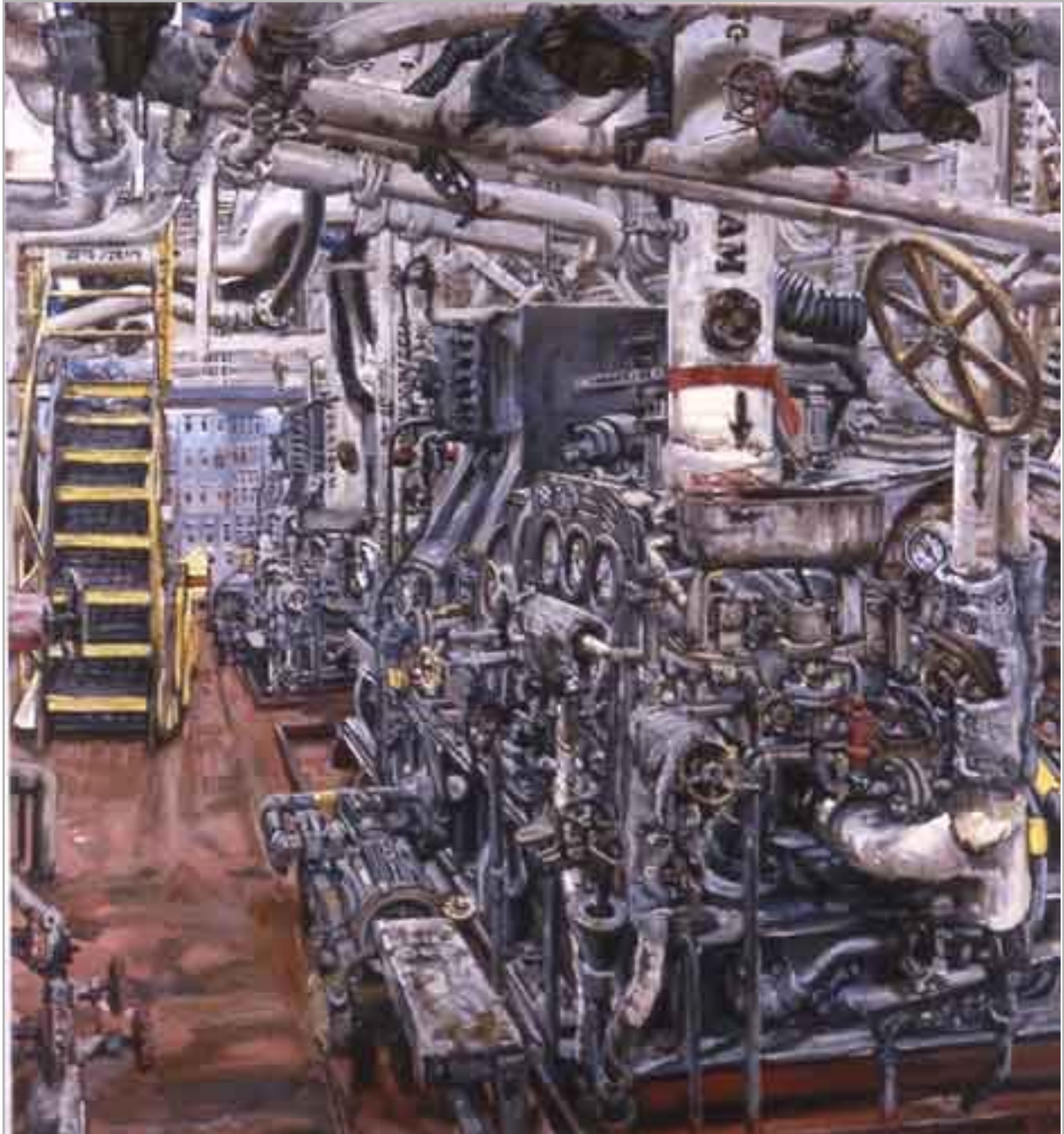
Untitled (View of engine room, SS Diamond State). Oil on Canvas. 2005.

*Building #128 was built at the turn of the century to build ships in. It is a magnificent structure, although ravaged. The intent of this show was to preserve the feeling of the place--its exhausted, depleted, expansive qualities. - CT*

(Tower's Brooklyn Navy Yard paintings are on exhibit at Open Project Space during September 2005. Open is Located at 62 Leroy Street, 2E. Open is open Saturday 12-6 and by appointment. For more information please call 917.340.3760).



Untitled (View of engine room, SS Diamond State). Oil on Canvas. 2005.



Untitled (View of engine room, SS Diamond State). Oil on Canvas. 2005.



This page: Tower at work in Building 128, Brooklyn Navy Yard, New York.  
Following pages: the four major paintings in the Building 128 series.



Untitled (main building view).  
Oil on canvas.  
68x72". 2005.  
(Following page: detail.)







Untitled (ceiling).  
Oil on canvas.  
38x40". 2005.



Untitled (machines)  
Oil on canvas.  
68x68". 2005.



Untitled (main building second floor).  
Oil on canvas.  
64x48". 2005

## Education

MFA University of California at San Diego, CA  
 BFA Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

## Solo Exhibitions

September 2005 Open Project Space, NY, Building 128 Series  
 January 2005 Realform, Road Show, Brooklyn, NY  
 May 2004 Uzi New York Gallery, Clutter, painting exhibition, New York, NY  
 Fall 2003 Tank, commissioned by Southwest College of Arts and Crafts, San Antonio, TX  
 Nov.-Jan. 2003 New Haven Public Free Library, CT, Fertility Hut, commissioned by Artspace  
 Winter 1999 Merrill Lynch Corporation, American Landscapes 1993-1998, New York, NY  
 April-May 1998 Serge Sorokko Gallery, Pretty Dot Remake, New York, NY  
 February 1998 Trans Hudson Gallery, Pirate Cindy, New York, NY  
 June-Nov. 1998 New Jersey Center for Visual Art, Gardenia, Summit, NJ  
 Summer 1993 New Museum for Contemporary Art, Westward Expansion Inwards, New York, NY

## Group Exhibitions

April-May 2005 Jack the Pelican Presents, Culture Vulture, Brooklyn, NY  
 April 2005 Sun Valley Center, Everyday Objects, Sun Valley, Idaho  
 September 2004 Streit's Matzo Store, Shared, New York, NY  
 June 2004 Dish, Studios, New York, NY  
 2004-2005 State of Connecticut, Centennial Tree Project, traveling exhibition, CT  
 September 2004 Mattactuck Museum, Waterbury, CT  
 May 2005, '04 Silvermine Guild Arts Center, Art of the Northeast, New Canann, CT  
 March-April '03 Paul Mellon Art Center, Nutmeg Steel, Workplace series, Wallingford, CT  
 March 2003 The Dylan Hotel, Scope '03, David Gibson Suite, New York, NY  
 Feb.-March '03 Cynthia Broan Gallery, Recession '03 \$99 Show, curated by Tim Thyzel, NY, NY  
 May 2002 Ace Gallery, Artist to Artist, New York, NY  
 June 2000-2002 Franconia Sculpture Park, group sculpture show, Baltic, Schafer, MN

## **Publications and Reviews**

The Hartford Courant, May 19th, 2005, Industrial Arts by Adrian Brune, p.1-3, Lifestyle sec.

Artnet magazine, reviews,Culture Vulture, by Maine, April 15,2005, p. 6 of 8

The New York Times, Oct. 10, 2004, p. C15

American Craft Magazine, December/January 2004 issue, p. 10

The New York Times, New York, NY, Michael Rush, July 7, '00, sec. 2, p.31

Art in America, New York, NY, November 1998

Time Out, March 12-19, 1998, p. 60

The New York Times, March 6, 1998

The New York Times, September 14, 1997, NJ Sec., p. 8

Art in America, New York, Dec. 1996, p. 92

The New York Times, Sept. 13, 1996, p. C30

Time Out, New York, Aug. 21-28, 1996, issue 48, p. 29

The New York Times, August 9, 1996, p. C24



# Paul Pagk

at  
Open

Oct.5 - Nov 5, 2005.

Open Project Space is located at  
62 Leroy Street, Ste 2E, NYC.

Open is open Saturday 12-6 and  
by appt. For more information  
please call 917.340.3760.

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