

**What Pipeline & Trinosophes present:**

## **MARY ANN AITKEN – BLACK ABSTRACT**

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**Dates:** June 7- July 6  
**Opening receptions:** Friday, June 7, 6-9PM at What Pipeline  
Saturday, June 8, 6-9PM at Trinosophes  
**Catalog release & talk:** Thursday, June 20, 6-9PM at Trinosophes  
**Contact:** info@whatpipeline.com

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**Black Abstract** is an exhibition in two parts, presenting distinct chapters in the career of artist Mary Ann Aitken (b. Detroit, 1960 - d. New York, 2012). For more than three decades, Aitken was a voracious artist whose output of painting, works on paper, and mixed media collage was matched by a sense of intention that cut across her varied subjects. Though Aitken studied and worked among the recognized artists of the Cass Corridor, her own art has yet to be celebrated. This retrospective exhibition showcases two significant periods in her life's work: 1983-1989 and 2006-2011.

Aitken's touch was not light. In the 1980s, she was a mark-maker who depicted her environment with a heavy palette. Thick layers of paint consumed whatever disposable material she could get her hands on, including linoleum tile, newsprint, cardboard, and used paper. Her rough, unmediated impressions of unconsidered objects and mundane street scenes reaffirm their existence.

In 1989, Aitken relocated to Brooklyn where she worked as an art therapist. Her work from 2006-2011, the late period of her life, represents a shift toward impenetrable abstraction. Rocks, twine, tar, soot, shells, and other debris are buried deep in ragged canvas; the treasures she found were hardened into dark, ossified form. This exhibition also features multiples of her photographic documentation of sublime gardens and beach scenes from the family cottage in Amertsburg, Canada.

What Pipeline is primarily showing early works, while the exhibition at Trinosophes focuses on Aitken's late work.

**Black Abstract** *has been realized with the help of Aitken's family, and her life-long friend Ed Fraga.*

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**What Pipeline**  
3525 W. Vernor Hwy  
Detroit, MI 48216

whatpipeline.com

Gallery hours:  
Thurs – Fri: 3-7PM  
Sat: 12-5PM

**Trinosophes**  
1464 Gratiot Ave  
Detroit, MI 48207

trinosophes.com

Gallery hours:  
Mon – Fri: 8AM-4PM, 6PM-10PM  
Sat: 8AM-4PM