

| Sep 20, 2016

SPOTLIT: THE TSA NETWORK

By Paul D'Agostino



Michelle Wasson's "Red, Yellow, Blue" at Terrain Exhibitions.

TSA Chicago — Anna Kunz, Co-Director

When I was first introduced to TSA NY, I was struck by the generosity of all of the members. They were genuinely interested in the idea of artists helping other artists. In fact, an artist-to-artist connection was how the idea for a Chicago location came about. Vincent Como mentioned TSA NY to me two years ago, and we had been talking with Alex about how this could come together. Vincent and I knew each other because we worked together on a Sol LeWitt exhibition at Rhona Hoffman gallery when he still lived in Chicago. For TSA, he curated my work into a show called "Angular Seduction," and later included my work on paper to Just Mad Art Fair in Madrid, where we had some success. The artist-to-artist connection continued, and I approached Michelle Wasson to co-direct in Chicago because I had been thinking about her work, and because she, like many artists, was under-exposed, considering her strong reputation as a painter and educator. In Chicago, the co-op, DIY gallery scene is very strong and, historically, always has been. A lot of artist-run spaces have solid reputations here, and no two are alike. Our vision was to gather a group of strong, diverse artists who had a reputation for being supportive to other artists. Michelle was in the midst of looking for a larger space, so she repurposed her Garfield Park studio for TSA Chicago. It's a perfect location with neighboring projects and galleries such as Claudine Ise's new project, Goldfinch, The Franklin and Devening Projects. Together, we started going to visit studios and approached some artists we hoped to work with, many of whom we didn't know personally. Each member of our location will bring a unique vision to our program. They are Robert Burnier, Zach Cahill, Holly Cahill, Meg Duguid, Esau McGhee, Josue Pellot, Olivia Schriener, Justin Witte, Michelle Wasson, and myself.