

Arlene Baker "Fiber Collage"

Noho M55 Gallery April 1–19, 2025

Reception: Saturday, April 5, 3-5 pm

Two Circles

During a life's journey, if we are lucky enough, we circle back to the welcomed events and things from the past we thought we had broken away from.

Arlene Baker wasn't sure how to go about her upcoming solo show; nothing seemed quite the right choice to exhibit. At one moment, she doubted the reason for having a show. But then, during the moving out of the old house, she rediscovered, hidden in the storage space, an old box with 34 paintings from the 90s, never shown before, waiting for 35 years for the right occasion and right venue to see the light of the day, meet the eyes of the people. The proper venue was already there - the Noho M55 Gallery, giving the perfect opportunity for Arlene's first circle- to show the forgotten paintings from the 90s in 2025.

The second circle presented itself: It's the 50th anniversary of the "Paintings and Drawings," the 6-artist invitational show in the old M55 Gallery in the 70s when Arlene won the spot in the show as the only artist chosen unanimously. That show could have been only one line in Arlene's CV, a forgotten one of many shows she participated in in the 70s. But it wasn't. She joined the Noho Gallery, which was, at one point, partnered with M55 Gallery, enabling Arlene to follow up on her first show in M55 Gallery 50 years ago, proving that everything tends to come back in some way, making circles of art life visible and, in this case, creating the excellent exhibition, making the past and the present to sing in unison, for true quality and beauty are timeless.

M. Winterdale