

**Virtual**   
**LAVENDER**  
 **Labels**

**AMY SILLMAN**  
**(American, b. 1955)**

*3-Legged (Blue), 2015-16*

**Oil on Canvas | 75 x 66 x 1 1/2 in.**

The Alfond Collection of Contemporary Art at Rollins College,  
Gift of Barbara '68 and Theodore '68 Alfond, 2016.3.3.  
Image courtesy of the artist and Gladstone Gallery, New York.



Amy Sillman, an artist, educator, and writer, works with colors and images through multiple mediums: zines, videos, and works on canvas. Born in 1955 in Detroit, Michigan, Sillman's art focuses on process and experimentation. She uses formal techniques and critical thought as her guiding artistic philosophy. When beginning her academic career at New York University, she initially studied Japanese to become an interpreter for the United Nations. Language has remained a central theme of her work, transforming how to conceptualize the world around us and build new vocabularies.

Former assistant to Pat Steir, an artist best known for her dripping abstract art, Sillman combines abstraction and figuration in similar ways. Sillman's counterculture pursuits, like inclusion in *Heresies*, a 1970s feminist art activism journal, became one of the first bibliographies of lesbian artists. Featured in *Queer Formalism: The Return*, a critical essay by curator William J. Simmons, her work exemplifies the complexity of bodies and structures. Her efforts carve out new ways of conceptualizing queer art and insists on its necessity.

*3-Legged (Blue)*, oil on canvas, centers her intangible experiences as a queer woman.

With awkward figures in an abstract environment, its strokes and layers balance tension in scale with space. Here, Abstract Expressionism allows viewers to imagine the possibilities and paradoxes associated with the intersections of personal identity. It resists explicit definition, and still brings Queer Formalism, a concerted effort to name and understand queer art theory, to the contemporary art stage.