

An abstract painting with dark, moody tones. The background is a mix of dark blues, blacks, and greys, with some lighter, more vibrant colors like purple, green, and orange scattered throughout. The brushstrokes are thick and expressive, creating a sense of movement and depth. The overall composition is dense and layered, with various textures and colors blending together.

SUSANNA COFFEY - *NIGHT SHIFT*

Untitled Art, Houston

September 19 – September 21, 2025

**SERIOUS
STORIES**

Booth B14



Susanna Coffey

266 Elizabeth St Rooftops, 4/26/24, 2024

Oil on panel

5 x 7 inches.



Susanna Coffey

Fireflies, Safe as Houses, Salem, 2022

Oil on linen

11 x 14 inches



Susanna Coffey

Gas Station, from Brice and Don's Portico 1/24/19, 2019

Oil on panel

6 x 8 1/2 inches.



Susanna Coffey

Nightclub, Khondzi at NuBlu, 2024

Oil on linen

12 x 16 inches



Susanna Coffey

Fire on the Shore, 2023

Oil on panel,
18 x 24 inches



Susanna Coffey

Montrose Harbor, 2012

Oil on panel

3 x 5 inches



Susanna Coffey

Chautauqua's Cinema, 2025

Oil on linen

8 x 6 inches



Susanna Coffey

Letna Hill, Prague 7/11, 2011

Acrylic on panel

3 x 5 Inches



Susanna Coffey

Night Studio, Despoina's Crown, 2019

Oil on panel

9 x 6 inches



Susanna Coffey

Full Moon, Pearl Street Johnson, 2000

Oil on panel

5 x 8 inches



Susanna Coffey

Milton Porn Shop, 2018

Oil on panel

4 x 6 inches



Susanna Coffey

Golden Pavilion, 2022-3

Oil on panel

3 x 6 inches



Susanna Coffey
246 Eldridge St., 2024
Oil on panel
5 x 7 inches



Susanna Coffey

Night Studio with B.B.s Cap 3/13/19, 2019

Oil on panel

11 x 8 inches



Susanna Coffey

Pebbles, 2003

Oil on panel

6 x 8 inches



Susanna Coffey

Grant Park, 3/26/10, 2010

Oil on panel

8 x 6 inches



Susanna Coffey

Hunter's Moon, Nadia Painting, 9/11/22, 2022

Oil on panel

11 x 14 inches



Susanna Coffey

Rainy Shrine, 2024

Oil on panel

8 x 6 inches



Susanna Coffey

Casting, 2024

Oil on panel

3 x 5 inches



Susanna Coffey

Sear's Slice from Fine Arts Building, February, 2014

Oil on panel

5 x 3 inches



Susanna Coffey

Hay Moon, Lake and Lantern, 2023

Oil on panel

18 x 24 inch



Susanna Coffey

Specular, 2024

Oil on panel

3 x 6 inches



Susanna Coffey

TV Clark St Chicago, 2003

Oil on panel,
6 x 8 inches



Type to enter text

Susanna Coffey

Chautauqua, fireworks and flares, 2025

Oil on panel

4 x 10 inches

SUSANNA COFFEY

NIGHT SHIFT

Untitled Art, Houston 2025

Friday, September 19 through Sunday, September 21

Address: George R. Brown Convention Center, Hall A3, 1001 Avenida De Las Americas, Houston, TX

VIP and Press Preview: Thursday, 18 Sept, 1-9pm

the night shift, Susanna Coffey

"In the hours after dark, I join the night shift. When most are sleeping in their beds, I join those on the third, grab a coffee, pick up my tools and go off to work. Then I can see what is mine to paint! As night falls, places, persons, things that seem familiar, ordinary or well-known, take on different appearances. These are simple, after-sunset mysteries; the shabby boathouse becomes a golden pavilion, a snowy parking lot scintillates and glitters almost into abstraction and a country gas station shines in vivid color.

How could I not want to sit patiently and wait to see the colors of darkness emerge and differentiate. Day cannot see the luminosity of stars, the moon's bright face, lit up windows, neon signs and glowing fires? While I can barely see my palette or painting surface, the darkness enables me to explore the mixing of color on that palette in a more reckless and improvisational way than I can during the day.

One night, I looked up from my canvas to see a fox watching me from the edge of the woods.

I began this way of working in 1996 after seeing Jean-François Millet's *Starry Night* at the Yale University Art Gallery. Vincent van Gogh loved and famously emulated this painting. Van Gogh was deeply affected by Millet's art with its focus on seemingly ordinary people and places. I have admired both of these artists for their gift of revealing the magical nature within what is usually considered mundane.

In *NIGHT SHIFT* you will see paintings made in a variety of locations: cities, country sides, night clubs or artist's studios. Most of these works were made as I traveled for my work as a teacher and lecturer. Even if my daily schedule is heavy, the night shift is all mine and its reveals are always there for me, allowing me to be the artist I am."

About the Artist

A respected figurative painter, Susanna Coffey's work in self-portraiture, landscape, still life and illustration of classical literature is based in an intense observation of her motif or text. She is an artist known for her ability to create beautifully wrought and expressive imagery from subject matter often deemed abject or mundane.

Her works in self-portraiture are investigations of the iconic human head. This work is driven by questions about what a portrait image can mean. What is a beautiful appearance? Why do conventionally gendered images involve caricature? Can inchoate feeling-states be adequately portrayed?

Coffey is also known for her landscape paintings. Like the self-portraits, these works are made from direct observation of her motif. But unlike them these works are always painted at night. The subject of each "night painting" is chosen for the way it transforms in the dark. A gas station, parking lot, or cow pasture may seem ordinary when seen in days light but after dark, for Coffey, these places appear sublime.

Coffey's book *Night Painting* was recently published in its second edition by MAB Books. This book features her nocturnal landscape paintings as well as essays, poems and prose poems by Dr. Carol Becker, Brice Brown, Jane Coffey, Jane Kenyon and Mark Strand.

Coffey's work is included in the collections of The Art Institute of Chicago, The National Portrait Gallery, National Academy of Design, The Hood Museum, The Honolulu Museum of Art, Minneapolis Museum of Art, The Weatherspoon Art Museum, the Yale University Art Gallery, and others. In 2023 she was one of the recipients of the "Artist x Artist Award" given by the Hirschhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. Other awards include the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, the National Endowment for the Arts Award, and the Louis Comfort Tiffany Award. Her many one-person exhibitions have been written about in *The New York Times*, *Art in America*, *Art News*, *the New Yorker*, *Hyperallergic*, and other publications. Several books and monographs have included, or featured, her work.

Susanna Coffey, received her BFA magna cum laude from the University of Connecticut at Storrs and graduated with an MFA from the Yale School of Art. In 2018 she retired as the F.H. Sellers Professor in Painting at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She was a Visiting Professor of Painting in Columbia University's School of Visual Art from 2013 until 2023.

For more information regarding Susanna Coffey, please visit serious-topics.com or contact Serious Topics director Kristin Calabrese at serioustopics777@gmail.com or +1 310 988 0050.



**SERIOUS
STORIES**

Los Angeles