

April 22, 2015

## JOAN SEMMEL

Gray

The New York painter abandoned abstraction in the mid-seventies for intensely colored, proudly frank portraits of naked bodies—often her own, and often seen in flagrante. As part of this five-decade mini-retrospective, Semmel’s paintings of a couple against a hot-yellow background, or of her own flesh seen from an unflattering downward angle, reclaim the female nude from its usual objectified role in Western painting. There’s less boldness in her more recent works, unfortunately, whose conventional viewpoints and cropping sap her art of its earlier force. Aging deserves the full attention of a painter of such talent. Through May 16.

---