

CLIFTON BENEVENTO

LOCATION: 515 BROADWAY NEW YORK NY 10012 PHONE: 212 431 6325 FAX: 212 334 4703
EMAIL: INFO@CLIFTONBENEVENTO.COM WEBSITE: WWW.CLIFTONBENEVENTO.COM

**Art****Review: Agnieszka Brzezanska, “Sound Waves, Light Waves, Dance Waves”**

The artist searches for the spiritual in art. *Nana Asfour*

**Loie Fuller**

Photograph: Courtesy Clifton Benevento

For some reason, a good number of Berlin artists seem to be obsessed with early-20th-century ideas and ideologies. The Polish artist Agnieszka Brzezanska, who resides there, turns a fascination with iconic female dancers from that era into a charmingly uninhibited admixture of veneration and appropriation—as well as thoughtful investigation of transcendence through movement and form. Vintage photos of Loie Fuller, Ruth St. Denis and Isadora Duncan, culled from the New York Public Library, are overlaid with computer-generated shapes and patterns. In some images, the artist’s swish-swashings highlight and amplify the women’s poses. In others, these flourishes completely transform the original. In a shot of St. Denis in a wooded glade, for instance, a mysterious white orb hovers

over her head and outstretched arms, giving the eerie impression that she's holding it up in space. In another piece, a dense, undulating cloud obscures much of Fuller's body, providing fluidity to her otherwise static posture. And in still another image—of St. Denis again—a billowing balloon of biomorphic tracery shoots out from her hands, as if to lift her into the great beyond.

Titled “Sound Waves, Light Waves, Dance Waves,” which is taken from a statement by Duncan, the show also packs in photographs of sunsets and a few astonishingly simple paintings, featuring specks, dots and curlicues. On a purely visual level, these are somewhat hokey. But as studies into the spiritual meaning of cycles—the sun's rising and setting serving here as the ultimate expression of cosmic geometry—they are resoundingly effective.

Brzezanska sees herself as a descendant of Hilma af Klint, Agnes Martin and Emma Kunz—the artist's avowed heroines. But she's no mere disciple. Rather, her explorations daringly expound and expand upon their beliefs in the mystical possibilities of art.

[Clifton Benevento](#), through Mar 12

February 15, 2011

Printed version: February 22, 2011, p.53