

NEXT GALLERY AT MCNY PRESENTS

Art and Alchemy

October 8, 2008 — December 5, 2008



About the show.....

At one time or another almost everyone has found treasure in trash. We might be attracted to an object's color, shape, or texture or simply an object's ability to resonate emotionally with us. Each of the artist-chemists in this exhibition uses found materials to transform waste into wonder.

The term "Alchemy," from the Arabic al-kīmiyā, originally referred to an investigation of nature combining elements of chemistry, physics, medicine, astrology, mysticism, and art. Alchemists throughout the ages sought to transform common metals into gold or silver, or find an elixir of life to cure all diseases and prolong life indefinitely. Today the term has come to mean any magical power or process of transmuting a common substance, usually of little value, into one of great value.

Carol Goebel transforms rusted metal tools into beautiful installations that flicker with life and make you think you have come upon a flock of amazing flying creatures.

Linda Stillman chooses found materials, remnants of daily life – coffee filters, tea bags, blossoms and bark from her garden and paint shards from her painting practice and transforms them into witty and elegant compositions.

Elyse Taylor creates a charming and moving narrative patchwork of life experiences in her ongoing project, "Growing," made up of 16 inch square panels, using a large variety of recycled and found materials along with paint and collage.

Dan Walker transforms plastic parts by aggregating them according to color. His explosive assemblages and sculptures are dazzling in their intricacy and nuanced color relationships.

Gallery Director: Dr. Faye Ran
Curator: Barbara Lubliner

Carol Goebel

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Bio Growing up in southwestern Ohio had a deep influence on the art of Carol Goebel. The openness of the landscape enabled her to witness the vast and breathtaking dramas of weather systems approaching from afar. Wandering and playing in fields, creeks and trees, making mud forms by the side of streams, and trips to the mysterious Indian mounds of southern Ohio, all contributed to Carol's sensibilities and art making practice. So too did Carol's father, an engineer and inventor, who built the house in which she grew up, instilling in Carol a lifelong respect for design, tools and working with one's hands. Carol worked with art materials from an early age and by her first semester of

college at Miami University of Ohio, she knew she wanted to be an artist. After receiving her master's degree from Pratt Institute in New York City, she worked as an art therapist and then started her own painting business, Dutch Girl Painters, Inc. Carol is past president and founding member of Ceres Gallery, where she has had ten shows, in addition to five solo shows at Denise Bibro Fine Art concurrently. Carol's extensive biography includes reviews in Art News, The New York Times, New York Newsday, and Arts Magazine. She has coordinated or curated shows among them, "Ornery Abstraction," "Artists for Choice," "Women and Health," and "LXWXD." Carol divides her time between NYC and her beloved northern Catskill Mountains, where she scavenges for sculptural materials.

Artist's Vision

"I am interested in the transformative nature of art -- in the use of materials, in the art making process, and in the psyche of the viewer" Carol says. She finds excitement in the limitless possibilities of creating art with cast off objects, objects that have had a previous life and whisper stories of people who have used them. Carol searches out rusty farm tools, cast iron parts, and bits of forged metal, cuts them up, and recombines them. She fuses these disparate pieces into a single compact whole by heating the parts until an alchemic transmutation occurs.

As native peoples use the materials at hand, Carol tries to express an integral relationship between daily life and the natural environment. In recent installations Goebel invents new life forms. Starkly lyrical birds fly up and across a suggested horizon line running around the gallery walls. Twisting and torquing, wriggling and flying, Carol's deftly balanced images seem to want to fly off from the wall into vaster imaginative skies.

Carol Goebel (con't)

Solo Exhibitions:

- 2007 Ceres Gallery, New York, NY, "Fly Away"
- 2006 Denise Bibro Fine Art, New York, NY, "Flying Migration"
- 2005 Square One Gallery, New York, NY, "Union Square Migration"
- 2003 Denise Bibro Fine Art, New York, NY, "Recent Sculpture"
- 2003 Ceres Gallery, New York, NY, "Upward Bound"
- 2001 Denise Bibro Fine Art, New York, NY, "On the Move"
- 2000 Ceres Gallery, New York, NY, "Moving On"
- 1998 Denise Bibro Fine Art, New York, NY, "Moving Up"
- 1998 Ceres Gallery, NY, "Flyers and Swimmers; Creepers and Crawlers"
- 1997 Denise Bibro Fine Art, New York, NY, "Space Moves"
- 1995 Ceres Gallery, New York, NY, "Rustbusters"
- 1992 Ceres Gallery, New York, NY, "Iron Wills"
- 1992 Queens Museum of Art at Bulova Center, NY, "Myth From Metal"
- 1990 Ceres Gallery, New York, NY, "Tools of Transformation"
- 1989 Broadway Windows, New York, NY, "Guardian Spirits"
- 1987 Ceres Gallery, New York, NY, "Rust Never Sleeps"
- 1985 Ceres Gallery, New York, NY, "Spirit Tools"
- 1979 Chuck Levitan Gallery, New York, NY
- 1975 Open Studio, New York, NY, "Ceramic Sculpture"
- 1970 Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2007 "Live Free or Die" Rhonda Schaller Studio, NY, NY
- 2004 Denise Bibro Fine Art/Philadelphia International Art Fair, PA
- 2003 Denise Bibro Fine Art/The Affordable Art Fair, NYC
- 2003 "Ceres at 20 Birthday Duet", Ceres Gallery, NYC
- 2002 "Invitational: Gallery and Guest Artists" Denise Bibro Fine Art, NYC
- 2001-02 "New York Collection 2001" Albright-Knox Art Gallery,
Rental Sales Gallery, Buffalo, NY
- 2001 "Invitational: Gallery & Guest Artists" Denise Bibro Fine Art, NY
- 1999 "Small Works" 80 Washington Sq. E. Gallery, New York University
juror: Ronald Feldman
- 1998 "The Whole Is Greater Than The Sum Of Its Parts" Kunstlerforum, Bonn, Germany
- 1998 "With a Different Voice" Butler Gallery, Marymount College, Tarrytown, NY
- 1998 "Flora & Fauna: Life on the Edge" AQA Gallery, Forest Hills, NY
- 1998 "A Salon Invitational" Soho 20 Gallery, New York, NY
- 1997 "Light and Shadow" Project Hope, Peekskill, NY
- 1997 "Group Invitational Gallery Artists" Denise Bibro Fine Art, NY
- 1997 "Death, Dying and Mourning" Ceres Gallery, NY, NY
- 1996 "Women Artists Series, 25 Years" Rutgers U., Mason Gross School Galleries, N.J.
- 1996 "Summer Invitational" Denise Bibro Fine Art, New York, NY
- 1996 "L. x W. x H. = ?" Visual Arts Program, St. Mark's Church-In-The-Bowery, NY,
- 1995 "Recycling with Imagination: ART FROM DETRITUS II" Writer's Place,
Kansas City, MO
- 1995 "In 3 Dimensions: Women Sculptors of the '90s" Snug Harbor, S.I., NY

Linda Stillman

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Bio Linda Stillman is a mixed media artist who works in her studios in Brooklyn and upstate in Hillsdale, New York. As a teen, Linda made collages and kept meticulous scrapbooks filled with photos and ephemera that documented her everyday activities. Linda, in fact, inherited a family inability to throw things out, but luckily this would turn to her advantage later on. Faced with the daunting task of deciding on a career, she investigated her lifelong interest in art by taking a summer course in design at Harvard. This inspired her to finish her bachelor's in cultural and intellectual history at the University of Pennsylvania as early as she could, and attend the School of Visual Arts where she received a certificate in design/illustration. After a career in graphic design and art direction,

Linda closed her design firm to concentrate on her own art. Linda worked for two years at the Art Student's League and then attended the MFA program in Visual Art at Vermont College, a low residency program that introduced her to the diversity of ideas in contemporary art and provided an intellectual context for thinking about her art making. Linda was inspired by the art and decoration artists of the 70's, American folk art, minimal art, artists such as Joseph Cornell, Eva Hesse, On Kawara and Byron Kim.

Artist's Vision

Linda works in various media: collage, painting, photography, sculpture and installation. As Linda explains, she uses “diverse media to investigate concepts of time, memory and our interaction with nature. Of particular interest to me are everyday, often meaningless or overlooked objects and fleeting moments of experience, and the ways in which they are collected, preserved, and remembered.” The country and her gardens provide her with inspiration and raw materials for her art. For example, Linda dries leaves and flowers for use in collages. Her “pigment” drawings make use of plants as the medium. These works are mediations on color and a record of the ephemeral and mutability of nature. Similarly, Linda uses everyday items from the home such as tea bags and coffee filters to create works which celebrate the unsung aspects of our daily lives.

In 2005, Linda started a Daily Paintings series. Linda paints a small panel of the sky every day. The Daily Paintings are grouped in months by week or all in one line, and each panel is considered a detail of the entire work. This daily process of capturing a fleeting moment in paint is contemplative— making time every day to stare at the sky— and the result is a diary of her art making and her place on earth. “Through my art, I’m quietly, yet earnestly, showing that we should marvel at the natural world and our material culture and not take it for granted. Things change, grow, die and disappear. By noticing and documenting nature and our everyday life and by turning observations into art, we can hope to hold onto memories of the world around us.”

Linda Stillman (con't)

Selected Exhibitions:

- 2008** Miller Block Gallery: "Campaign Buttons 2008: Artists Speak Out!" Boston, MA
OK Harris Gallery: "No Chromophobia;" curated by Richard Witter & Suzanne Kreps; New York, NY
Thompson Gallery at The Cambridge School of Weston: "Sublime Climate: Addressing Global Warming/Symbiosis: Redefining Nature;" curated by Todd Bartel; Weston, MA
Andrea Meislin Gallery: "It's Gouache and Gouache Only," curated by Geoffrey Young; New York, NY
- 2007** Charles Michael Gallery: "Daily Paintings;" Darien, CT
Atlantic Gallery: "Toys," invitational exhibition; New York, NY
Columbia County Council on the Arts Invitational Studio Tour, "Art in a Landscape;" Hillsdale, NY
- 2006** Columbia County Council on the Arts' ArtsWalk: "Contemporary Painting;" Hudson, NY
Atlantic Gallery: "Trash," invitational exhibition; New York, NY
Art at First Presbyterian Church: "Color," curated by Barbara Sherman; New York, NY
- 2005** Columbia County Council on the Arts' ArtsWalk: "Encounters with Sculpture," Hudson, NY
- 2004** The Arsenal Gallery: "Wreath Show," juried exhibition; New York, NY
Paul Mellon Art Gallery, Choate Rosemary Hall School: "Looking In/Looking Out," curated by Ellen Pliskin; Wallingford, CT
T.H. Wood Art Gallery, Vermont College: "Open Spectrum," juried exhibition; Montpelier, VT
Hudson Opera House, Columbia County Council on the Arts: "2004 Annual Juried Art Show;" Hudson, NY
- 2003** The Spencertown Academy Gallery: Two-person juried exhibition; Spencertown, NY
A.I.R. Gallery: "Generations III: A Survey of Women Artists;" New York, NY
80 Washington Square East Gallery, NYU: "25th Small Works," juried exhibition; New York, NY
- 2001** Carrie Haddad Gallery, Columbia County Council on the Arts: "2001 Annual Juried Art Show; Hudson, NY
80 Washington Square East Gallery, NYU: "Small Works," juried exhibition; New York,
Albany Center Galleries: "Book/Ends," juried exhibition; Albany, NY
Silvermine Guild Arts Center: "51st Annual Art of the Northeast USA," juried exhibition; New Canaan, CT

Art Related Activities:

- 2008** Gallery Talk at the Thompson Gallery at The Cambridge School of Weston
- 2004** Lecture: "Stripes in Art" at University of Maine, Orano, ME
- 2003** The Fabric Workshop and Museum: "RN: The Past, Present and Future of the Nurses' Uniform"-Mark Dion and J. Morgan Puett; contributed to show and assisted with installation; Philadelphia, PA

Elyse Taylor

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Bio: Elyse Taylor was born in Massachusetts. She lived in San Francisco in the 1960s before picking up and driving cross-country in her Volkswagen to New York City. In Manhattan, while working as a graphic designer, she studied printmaking. Needing more space, she moved to Brooklyn and set up a printing studio to print her own editions. Throughout the 1970s Elyse made and exhibited her prints in many venues. In the 1980s Elyse began to paint and exhibit her paintings. Yet it wasn't until the 1990's that Elyse began her ongoing series "Growing." Susan Josephs of The Jewish Week aptly described the series as followings: "Growing becomes both Taylor's autobiography and the story of all women. Whether it's an imitation of her high school yearbook picture or abstract references to the holocaust and the discrimination women face in the

work force, Taylor's vibrant, engaging fusion of the personal and universal makes her work stand out." So it was no surprise that in 1994, Elyse was commissioned by City Arts to paint a mural entitled, "A Dream Grows in Brooklyn," on the Snapple Distribution Plant in Red Hook. The 32 x 93 foot mural was a major challenge and success for Elyse. The mural was presented in the "Art with the Community" panel in the 1995 Beijing Women's Rights Conference.

Artist's Vision

Elyse explains: "My installation piece entitled "GROWING" is an autobiographical work, composed of 16" square panels. The entire piece is derived from a woman's experience in this society from a personal, political, and spiritual viewpoint. A wide variety of materials are used, representing the many components of life's fabric. "GROWING" is a work in progress. Currently in 2008, I have completed 625, 16" x 16" squares and continue to tell my life story."

Solo Exhibitions

- 2007 First Presbyterian Church, "Growing" NY
- 2004 Gallery 718, Brooklyn, NY
Yolele Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 1998 DFN Gallery, NYC
- 1994 LaGuardia Community College, "GROWING," Long Island City, NY
City Arts Mural Commission, "A Dream Grows in Brooklyn," Brooklyn, NY
- 1991 New York Open Center, NYC
Rutgers - Douglass College, "Women Artist Series," NJ
YWCA of Brooklyn, "Focus on Women in the History of Art," NY
- 1988 Bruce Lurie Gallery, NYC

Elyse Taylor (con't)

- 1986 Jeffery Neale Gallery, NYC
- 1986-5 Hudson Gallery, NYC
- 1983 Jean Lumbard Gallery, NYC
- Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, 71 Broadway, NYC
- 1982 Windows on White, installation, NYC

Group Exhibitions

- 2008 Click- A Crowd Curated Exhibit, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
Gallery 6 "W.O.M.A.N." Staten Island, NY
Art @ Forte, Brooklyn, NY
- 2007 First Presbyterian Church, "New York Visions of the City," NYC
Art @ Forte, Brooklyn, NY
Lana Santorelli Gallery, "Skin," Southampton, NY
- 2006 Danny Simmons' Corridor Gallery "Neighborhood Diva," Brooklyn, NY
St. Joseph's College, "Social Justice," Brooklyn, NY
- 2005 Guild Hall Member's Exhibit, Honorable Mention, juror: Holly Block,
East Hampton, NY Billboard Penn Station, 34th & 7th Ave. A Study in Red
Gallery D3, "Brooklyn Artists," Brooklyn, NY
AAF Contemporary Art Fair, NYC
- 2004 Lunarbase Gallery, Williamsburg, NY
Clinton Hill Art Festival, Gallery D3, Brooklyn NY
Billboard Penn Station, 34th & 7th Ave. "A Study in White"
AAF Contemporary Art Fair, NYC
- 2003 OK Harris "Subject/Object" NYC
- 2002 Exit Art "Reactions," NYC
- 2001 DFN Gallery "Gore Wins," NYC
Series by Beryl Smith – Rutgers

Works Reproduced in Catalogs, Publications & T.V. Broadcasts

- 1989 New York Newsday, "Celebration of Women's History," by Merle English
New York Times, "Even Distorted Figure Has Power," by Helen Harrison
- 1987 New York Times, "Art: Brooklyn Painters," by Michael Brenson
- 1985 Arts Magazine feature article by Barry Schwabsky Oct. issue
- 2007 Crozier brochure "Grand Palais"
Art at Forte catalog
- 1999 The New York Times, "From Ho Chi Minh to Snapple: A Mural Project Evolves"
- 1998 International Gallery Guide - Cover, "Growing"
- 1998 National Jewish Museum Catalog, "Assimilate/Assimilate"
- 1995 Channel 13, "Cityarts" Mural: "A Dream Grows in Brooklyn"

Awards

- 1995 Travel Grant - Quaker Oats, NGO Forum on Women - Beijing "1995"

Dan Walker

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Bio: Dan Walker was encouraged at a very early age to make use of available materials to create art. His mother, Joyce, an artist and teacher, was making collages that incorporated watercolor with leaves and scrap metal when he was still in preschool. That is when the inspiration to use non-traditional media and techniques took hold. He did not discard his toys when he was finished playing with them. He took them apart and built new ones. While earning a BFA in theatrical design and technology from Florida State University, he continued to incorporate found objects in makeup, costumes, and sculpture. After moving to New York in 1999, he began working for a toy inventing and licensing company. While

working in an environment dedicated to creative thinking and innovation, he could not resist the urge to make use of his new resource of discarded plastic components and began to create static and kinetic sculptures. Dan began The Robot Monkey Sports Network (www.robotmonkey.net) in 2005, an ever-growing interactive art installation in which audience members compete in team sports using customized, remote-controlled robots in a model stadium complete with sound and lighting effects and a rowdy toy audience.

Artist's Vision

Dan refers to his current body of work as chromo-assemblage – sculpture composed of groups of found objects arranged according to color. The resulting works evolve beyond the sum of their components to become delicately balanced systems of color and texture. Every meticulously arranged piece becomes a brush stroke as one field of color transitions to the next. Walker chooses not to add paint or coloring to the found pieces. He lets the “natural” color of each object determine its relationship to the collective. Walker explores the organic relationship of inorganic objects creating work that gives masses of small parts new identities, as they become components of a single organism. “I'm fascinated by the perception of value and how the juxtaposition of objects affects their value,” Dan says. “I choose objects for their aesthetic and sentimental qualities rather than their practicality and monetary worth. The assemblages allow these objects to evolve in to communities with a collective worth where each component is needed and enhanced by the others.”

Exhibitions:

2008 “Movin' On Up!” group show, Ken Jones Jr. Fine Art, Easton PA

2006 The Circle of Doom, interactive installation, Bent Festival, 15 Nassau St, New York, NY

2005 The Battle of the Robot Monkeys, interactive installation, The Tank, New York, NY

Articles: 2006 'Circuit Bending' Lets Old Toys Play Tunes, Jesse Jarnow, The Associated Press, Thursday, April 27, 2006