

HOTHOUSE

**Eleanor Miller, Will Robinson,
Barbara Rogers, Nancy Sansom Reynolds**

March 1 – April 1, 2007

Susan Street Fine Art Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of new paintings and sculptures titled "Hothouse", featuring Eleanor Miller, Will Robinson, Barbara Rogers and Nancy Sansom Reynolds. The exhibition opens March 1 through April 1, 2007. A reception for the artists will be held on Thursday, March 15, from 6 to 9 pm, in conjunction with Cedros Gallery Night.

Webster's dictionary defines hothouse as "a greenhouse maintained at a high temperature for the culture of tropical plants" and "an environment conducive to vigorous growth or development." Etymology also reveals several earlier and noteworthy definitions, including "bathhouse" and "brothel". Hence, while the works represented in Hothouse explore classic themes associated with nature and the garden, such as the cycles of life (decay, death, rebirth and renewal), they also represent each artist's personal exploration of nature as places of drama and contrast that reveal human longings and emotions. The romantic view of the garden—even of one that is human-made—has been replaced with a deeper understanding of the sublime, where beauty and terror coexist in a feeling of awe and reverence for nature.

Barbara Rogers' beautiful and sensual paintings are thresholds that allow us to peer into the "internal" garden of the selfhood—elegant, disjunctive spaces filled with strange, magical colors and mysterious complex forms. The paintings are metaphors that "reveal the energy of threatening wonders dwelling just below the surface of the forced and prim order of the manicured garden."

Eleanor Miller's paintings reflect her close observation of nature and the creatures that roam, swim and share this planet with us, revealing life's continuing process and the mystery of its evolution. For Miller, there is a balance in the natural world that is driven by survival. Like the emblematic, dream-like imagery and personal memories inhabiting her paintings, nothing in nature is arbitrary; everything has a purpose, connected to the procreation and survival of a species.

Nancy Sansom Reynolds wood sculptures poetically convey fluid motion: sweeping curves and rippling contours activate her abstract forms with a sense of growth and change, resembling fragments of nature that have been subjected to the elements. Wrapping plywood around space, the artist shapes cavities and passageways that are both mysterious and uplifting. "My work is about nature from the inside out," explains Sansom Reynolds. "It's about concentric growth that builds outward."

Will Robinson favors stone and its enduring solidity and resistance to the ravages of time as the primary medium for his sculpture. His work originates from a personal need to create, to bring a vision from the ephemeral to the physical. It is drawn from the sum of his life's experiences, then amplified or muted to fit his emotional state at the moment of its creation. For Robinson, the impact of his work is equally important in the visual sense as it is in its physical, tactile presence. He encourages the viewer to touch the work to engage them more personally.

For more information, please call 858-793-4442 or email: gallery@susanstreetfineart.com