

DOLBY CHADWICK GALLERY

Mayme Kratz

Lost Light

June 4 - July 3, 2015

Dolby Chadwick Gallery is pleased to announce *Lost Light*, featuring the work of Phoenix-based artist Mayme Kratz, on view from June 4—July 3, 2015. Kratz will present wall-mounted works in resin on panel, as well as freestanding resin sculpture, in her first exhibition with the gallery. The title is drawn from Rebecca Solnit's book, *A Field Guide to Getting Lost*, poetic thoughts about the evocative potential of disassociation from the familiar. Solnit writes, "The world is blue at its edges and in its depths. This blue is the light that got lost." Kratz finds inspiration in the parched and desolate expanses of the Arizona desert, in lonely stretches of sand and the kind of hardy vegetation and animal life that can thrive there, "cactus and creosote bush...scruffy and wild" says the artist. Her regular wanderings yield artifacts that she notices and collects along the way—seeds, bits of plants, deer bones—or even a snake that met an untimely encounter with a car. Overlooked, and certainly left, by most, for Kratz these hold the key to an intimate world of the ephemeral components of life.

As a child growing up in the rural outskirts of San Diego, Kratz developed a kinship with the stark desert light and wide expanses. She also embarked upon a process of biological inquiry, studying, then burying the bodies of birds or small animals—often later to exhume their remains, study them further, and rebury—trying to make sense of it all. Her current process, which includes sealing bones, seeds, or other biological matter in layers of resin, and then sanding back down through the resin to unearth portions of the objects, clearly stems from her childhood fascination. Kratz explores and studies the plant and animal specimens that she collects, breaking them down into smaller pieces, or sawing them into sections, examining them under the microscope.

Her haunting works in resin on panel inhabit the world of painting, as they hang mounted on the wall, but are more sculptural in their depth and physical presence, possessing a weight both physical and metaphysical. With scattered bits of seed pods and animal bones, these works evoke the night sky and the cosmos, while simultaneously recalling the geometric structure of the atom, with its whirling electrons. "I think of the planets orbiting around the sun and of my own journey here on earth. Often when viewing the night sky the things I see through a telescope appear cellular and what I find through my microscope appears stellar."

With their ability to shift in focus from the minute to the vast, we may ponder the individual objects, viewing the intricate patterns of their interior structure, or contemplate the larger patterns created by her arrangements of these components. Moody hues found in nature—the midnight blue of a dark sky, green-gold of a pond, amber the shade of the sap of trees—form glittering layers encasing the once-living objects within their protection. For Kratz, the circle relates to the cyclical nature of life, the orbits of the planets, the shape of seeds or eggs, the round face of a clock, "a way of measuring time or feeling time." *Circle Dream 56*, 2014, part of a series inspired by a dream in which she was herself transformed into a circle, is largely a tranquil green, the shade of a desert cactus. Mexican buckeye seeds forming a ring display a skull-like aspect, with the

DOLBY CHADWICK GALLERY

desiccated appearance one might expect of objects parched in the desert sun. *Distant Space #2*, 2014, glows in saturated, alizarin red hues; the striated, translucent pigment reveals the panel beneath. Texas mountain laurel seeds, poppy pods, and mesquite seeds are riven in two—their hollow, segmented interior spaces remain a void. Taking the name of the exhibition, *Lost Light 1*, 2015, in a deep, intense blue, mingles shells and rattlesnake ribs in diffuse, spiraling compositions.

An atmospheric place of uncertainty and potential is central to the work, a place where objects have lost their previous identity and the comfortable reassurance of function, yet the viewer is invited to consider them anew, the residue of a living thing recontextualized as a conduit for new connections and emotions in the viewer. The pieces function as well as memento mori, in the painterly tradition where skulls, flowers, and plant life serve as symbolic reminders of the fleeting passage of life.

"I'm always searching for the light in the objects that I'm collecting and finding a way to celebrate the life or light of that spirit...the 'lost light' is like trying to dig up or uncover something that you know is there...but you may not be able to see initially. It's a way of exploring the transformation that takes place during the process of decay, and finding the beauty in that." says Kratz.

Mayme Kratz was born in San Diego County, and has made her home in Phoenix, Arizona since 1986. Kratz has had solo exhibitions at the Tuscon Museum of Art and The Tacoma Museum of Glass. She was a visiting artist at Pilchuck Glass School and was awarded a residency at The Museum of Glass in Tacoma, Washington, she has also recently received a mid-career award and exhibition at the Phoenix Museum of Art. Kratz's work is held in many public and private collections throughout the United States.

DOLBY CHADWICK GALLERY

Mayme Kratz

b. 1958, San Diego County

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2015 Lost Light, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco CA
The Brief Forever, Lisa Sette Gallery, Phoenix AZ
- 2013 Sometimes the Darkness, Lisa Sette Gallery, Scottsdale AZ
- 2012 Tracing Time , David Lusk Gallery, Memphis TN
- 2011 Falling Leaf, Flying Vapor , Lisa Sette Gallery, Scottsdale AZ
Tumbleweed Bower, Installation at The Icehouse, Phoenix AZ
Mid-Career Award Exhibition, Contemporary Forum, Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix AZ
- 2009 Pale Dreams , Lisa Sette Gallery, Scottsdale AZ
- 2008 Walking On Dry Land , Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix AZ
- 2007 Five Weeks in Sunlight , Lisa Sette Gallery, Scottsdale AZ
- 2006 Clearing Ground , Lisa Sette Gallery, Scottsdale AZ
- 2005 Past the Line of Memory , Anne Reed Gallery, Ketchum ID
- 2004 Secret Life, Lisa Sette Gallery, Scottsdale AZ
From Nearness to Nearness , Anne Reed Gallery, Ketchum ID
- 2003 The Visual Poetry of Mayme Kratz , Museum of Glass:
International Center for Contemporary Art, Tacoma WA
If Only By Trace , Lisa Sette Gallery, Scottsdale AZ
- 2002 Therefore , Contemporary Southwest Images XVII: The Stonewall Foundation Series ,
Tucson Museum of Art, Tucson AZ
- 2001 Divided , Lisa Sette Gallery, Scottsdale AZ
Between , Elliott Brown Gallery, Seattle WA
- 2000 Waking in the Dark , Lisa Sette Gallery, Scottsdale AZ
Waking in the Dark , Joseph Gross Gallery, The University of Arizona, Tucson AZ
- 1999 In The Narrow Time , Elliott Brown Gallery, Seattle WA
What Is Not Forgotten , Lisa Sette Gallery, Scottsdale AZ
- 1998 Beyond the Fire, Etherton Gallery, Tucson AZ
Meditations , Lisa Sette Gallery, Scottsdale AZ
- 1997 Mayme Kratz and Lynn Geesaman , Elliott Brown Gallery, Seattle WA
Light Year , Lisa Sette Gallery, Scottsdale AZ
- 1996 In the Garden , Lisa Sette Gallery, Scottsdale AZ
Fragments of a Former Life , Etherton Gallery, Tucson AZ
- 1995 Roots and Wings , Lisa Sette Gallery, Scottsdale AZ
- 1993 The Tree, the Nest, the Dreamer, Lisa Sette Gallery, Scottsdale AZ

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2015 30 Year Anniversary, Lisa Sette Gallery, Phoenix AZ
- 2014 Hello Midtown, Lisa Sette Gallery, Phoenix AZ
Palm Springs Fine Art Fair, Palm Springs CA

DOLBY CHADWICK GALLERY

- 2013 Desert Grasslands . A Desert Initiative Project, a multi-state collaboration,
Tucson Museum of Art, Tucson AZ
Sonnets of Light , Etherton Gallery, Tucson AZ
Summer Gems , Lisa Sette Gallery, Scottsdale AZ
- 2012 Inhabiting , Center for the Arts, Art Association, Jackson WY
Refresh: A Selection of Exceptional Works , Lisa Sette Gallery, Scottsdale AZ
Significant Forms , Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Scottsdale AZ
- 2011 The Presence of Trees, Ucross Foundation Art Gallery, Clearmont WY
Wanderlust, Lisa Sette Gallery, Scottsdale AZ
- 2010 Desert Chromaticity , Springs Preserve, Las Vegas NV
From the Ground Up , Lisa Sette Gallery, Scottsdale AZ
My Summer Vacation , Winston Wachter Gallery, Seattle WA
- 2009 Speak for the Trees , Friesen Gallery, Ketchum ID
Everything Is Illuminated , Lisa Sette Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ
- 2008 Architecture in the Sonoran Desert, exhibition/symposium, Barcelona Spain
Local Produce, summer exhibition, Lisa Sette Galley, Scottsdale AZ
Notes from the Interior , Etherton Gallery, Tucson AZ
- 2007 The Light of Blue, Anne Reed Gallery, Ketchum, ID
Green Matters , Elliott Brown Gallery, Invitational Exhibition at SOFA Chicago
- 2006 New American City , Arizona State University Art Museum, Tempe AZ
Hair , Lisa Sette Gallery, Scottsdale AZ
20-Year Anniversary , Lisa Sette Gallery, Scottsdale AZ
The Surface II , Hayes George Gallery, Charlotte NC
- 2005 Terra Firma , Blue Star Art, San Antonio TX
The Surface I , Hayes George Gallery, Charlotte NC
Trying to Touch what Disappears , Hayes George Gallery, Charlotte NC
Per Chance to Dream, Ohio Craft Museum, Columbus Ohio
Fall Reading , Anne Reed Gallery, Ketchum ID
- 2004 Per Chance to Dream, SCC, Pittsburgh PA
Nature's Notations , Etherton Gallery, Tucson AZ
- 2003 The Garden of Compassion , Lisa Sette Gallery, Scottsdale AZ
Theoretically Botanicals , Cumberland Gallery, Nashville TN
- 2002 Quartet , Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Scottsdale AZ
Home , Anne Reed Gallery, Ketchum ID
- 2001 Phoenix Triennial 2001 , Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix AZ
Mirrors of Reflection , Etherton Gallery, Tucson AZ
- 2000 Observation/Revelation: Plants and Insects Through the Lens of Art ,
Sun Valley Center for the Arts, Sun Valley ID
Selections from the Permanent Collection ,
Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Scottsdale AZ
- 2000 Images of Nature , Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix
- 1999 Holding Light: Contemporary Glass Sculpture , Austin Museum of Art, Austin TX
- 1998 Fever , Lisa Sette Gallery, Scottsdale AZ

DOLBY CHADWICK GALLERY

- 1997 Small Works IV, Lisa Sette Gallery, Scottsdale AZ
- 1996 Here & Now: Contemporary Arizona Artists ,
University Art Museum, Arizona State University, Tempe AZ
The Triennial Sofia 1996 International exhibition of Painting, Sofia Bulgaria
Natural Selection , Lisa Sette Gallery, Scottsdale AZ
- 1995 New Views, Lisa Sette Gallery, Scottsdale AZ
- 1994 Small Works III, Lisa Sette Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ
House Sweet House, New Jersey Center for Visual Arts, Summit NJ
- 1993 Small Works II, Lisa Sette Gallery, Scottsdale AZ
- 1992 Arizona Alliances, Yuma Art Center, Yuma AZ
Small Works I, Lisa Sette Gallery, Scottsdale AZ
- 1991 Pima Community College Art Gallery, Tucson AZ
- 1990 Earthday 1990, Olga Dollar Gallery, San Francisco CA
- 1989 Arizona Artists to End World Hunger, Scottsdale Center for the Arts, Scottsdale AZ

Selected Public Collections and Commissions

America West Airlines, Tempe AZ
Bank USA, Phoenix AZ
Bank of America, Phoenix, AZ
Bechtler Arts Foundation, Charlotte NC
Biltmore Bank, Phoenix AZ
City of Chandler, Chandler Arts Commission AZ
City of Glendale, Glendale Arts Commission AZ
City of Phoenix, An Open Book , Phoenix Arts Commission AZ
City of Scottsdale, Public Arts Commission, AZ
City of Tempe, trueNorth , Public Arts Commission, Tempe Performing Arts Center
First Western Bank, Scottsdale AZ
McDonalds Corporation, Phoenix AZ
MGM Grand City Center, Aria Resort, Las Vegas, NV
Museum of Glass: International Center for Contemporary Art, Tacoma WA
Nordstrom, Kansas City KA
Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix AZ
Phoenix Newspapers, Inc., Phoenix AZ
Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Scottsdale AZ
Tucson Museum of Art, Tucson AZ

Selected Bibliography

Ross, Deborah. "dynamic duo at Sette" explore art: phoenix, February 13, 2015
Trimble, Lynn. Lisa Sette Opens Season with "The Brief Forever" in Phoenix, Phoenix New Times blog, January 26, 2015
Regan, Margaret. Landscapes Limned, Tucson Weekly, October 24, 2013
Young, Amy L. "Sometimes the Darkness" Java, No213 May 2013
Ross, Deborah. "Desert Supplement" Art Ltd. Magazine, January 2013

DOLBY CHADWICK GALLERY

Orion – nature, culture, place, Ephemera Preserved -An Artistic inquiry, September/October 2011
Nilson, Richard. "Artist turns tiny objects into cosmic images" Arizona Republic, January 23 2011
Gross, Jaime, "The view from Phoenix" Dwell Magazine, July 30, 2010
Kelly, Danielle, Desert Delight, Las Vegas Sun, January 28, 2010
Keith Moskow & Robert Linn, "small scale, Creative Solutions for Better Living", 2010
Lombardi, D. Dominick. "An Eye on Arizona" dart International Spring/Summer 2010
Friesen, Andria. "Speak for the Trees" book, Marquand Books, Inc. 2009
Barton, Leslie. "The Secret Gardener" Phoenix New Times, March, 2008
Tyda, David. "The Northern Lights" Desert Living magazine, issue 75, September 2008
Regan, Margaret. "Complex Ambiguities" Tucson Weekly. May 22, 2008
Andrews, Scott. "Twenty Years at Lisa Sette Gallery" Java, February 2006
Clibborn, Edward Booth. "Phoenix 21st Century City", Booth-Clibborn Editions 2006
Lengel, Kerry. "Who is Phoenix?" The Arizona Republic, September 10, 2006
Lineberry, Heather Sealy. "New American City: Artists Look Forward", Arizona State University Art
Museum, September 2006
Goddard, Dan R. 'Earthy' land exhibit examines nature. San Antonio Express, December 2005
Abrams, Amy. "Sacred Spaces" Desert Living, May/June, 2003
Wagonfeld, Judy. 'Moving Through Nature' glass exhibit taps into primal desires, The Settle Post-
Intelligencer, November 6, 2003
Cavallo-Collins, Gina. "Quartet" Shade, June 2002
Cushman, Jennifer. "An Artist By Nature" Scottsdale Life, March, 2002
Perreault, John. "Philosophical Close-ups" Therefore Exhibition, Tucson Museum of Art. September 2002
Sasse, Julie. "Intimate Discoveries: Nature and Poetry in the Art of Mayme Kratz" Therefore
Exhibition, Tucson Museum of Art. September 2002
Roots, Garsion. "Designing the Worlds Best Public Art", The Images Publishing Group Ltd. 2002
Regan, Margaret. "Nature's Reliquary" Tucson Weekly, September 19, 2002
Abrams, Amy. "Delicate Balance" Scottsdale Tribune, July 29, 2001
Cushman, Jennifer. "Masters of the Southwest" Phoenix Home and Garden, March, 2001
Vanesian, Kathleen. "Watery Awakening" New Times, June 15, 2000
Graham, Jean. "Holding Light: Contemporary Glass Sculpture", Austin Museum of Art, Austin, Texas,
1999
Whitney, Kathleen. "Cultural Deserts: Off Center In Arizona & New Mexico." Sculpture Magazine, July
1999
Lebow, Edward. "The Age of Resin" New Times, May 14, 1998
Nilsen, Richard. "Artist's Vision More Than Skin Deep" The Arizona Republic, May 10, 1998
Nilsen, Richard. "Artists Follow Postmodern Path Back to Nature" The Arizona Republic, May 4, 1997
Portwood, Pamela. "Kratz Exhibit Gives Viewers Much to Muse On" The Arizona Daily Star October,
1996
Vanesian, Kathleen. "Cast from a Different Mold" New Times, vol. 27, 1996
Nilsen, Richard. "Hot Artists Enliven Nature, Pop Culture" The Arizona Republic, February 1993

Honors & Awards

2012 Artist in Residence, Cassilhaus, Chapel Hill NC

DOLBY CHADWICK GALLERY

- 2010 Mid-Career Award recipient, Contemporary Forum, Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix AZ
Artist in Residence, Ucross Foundation, Clearmont WY
- 2009 Artist in Residence, Northwest Meets Southwest, Point Roberts WA
- 2008 Art in Embassies Program, U.S. Embassy Residence, Santo Domingo, Santo Domingo
- 2007 Artist in Residence, Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix, AZ
- 2004 Visiting Artist, Museum of Glass: International Center for Contemporary Art, Tacoma WA
- 2002 Artist Project Grant, Arizona Commission on the Arts
- 1998 Artist in Residence, Pilchuck Glass School, Stanwood WA
Flow Fund Grant, Rockefeller Foundation
- 1995 Visual Arts Fellowship, Arizona Commission on the Arts, Phoenix AZ
- 1992 Artist Materials Fund Grant, Contemporary Forum, Phoenix Art Museum