

DOLBY CHADWICK GALLERY

Mayme Kratz

Vanishing Light

Nature figures as Kratz's primary point of departure, her art attending not only to its cyclical rhythms and winkings of the sublime but also to those overlooked aspects of its beauty. A resident of Phoenix, Arizona, Kratz is particularly drawn to the harsh conditions of the desert and the American southwest. She sets out on hiking and camping trips to explore the texture and soul of the landscape, frequently foraging for plant life, insect exoskeletons, snake vertebra, and shells, among other organic matter. These objects subsequently form the heart of her mixed media assemblages. Returning to her studio, she disassembles her findings, rearranging them on a panel before layering in colored resins that she sands down to a smooth, matte finish. The compositions often come to Kratz in dreams or, as with this body of work, in those suspended moments between states of consciousness: "Many of the images reflect what I see with my eyes closed, before I go to sleep at night." They picture her foraged materials through a new, idiosyncratic lens, recasting their slighted elegance in unexpected terms while also conferring them with new life.

This way of seeing is exemplified by *Vanishing Light 14* and *Vanishing Light 15*, which accentuate the hidden grandeur of snake weed by contextualizing it within an empyrean framework. In both, hundreds of delicate sprigs explode out from the center like rays of light to form a starburst arrangement. The deep blue and steely hues of the works' resin encasings mimic twilight's diminishing light, heightening the bright yellow of the poisonous plant and further affirming its rightful place in the sky. *Violet Hour*, whose title is a reference to T.S. Eliot's poem *The Wasteland*, similarly conjures the cosmos using terrestrial elements. Here, a collection of seashells, snake vertebra, and rattlesnake ribs swirl as if a galaxy amid a field the color of the sky right before sunset, when blue turns to violet. Through her art, Kratz spotlights the startling relationship between earth and the celestial, noting how objects seen under the microscope often look stellar, while phenomena viewed through the telescope appear cellular.

This past year offered Kratz more opportunities to roam the desert. In addition to visiting Utah's Grand Gulch and Cedar Mesa, she hiked the Grand Canyon, where she spent a few days along the Colorado River. Although she did not take anything from the latter location, she was profoundly influenced by its light and shadows. Many of the new works reflect these adventures, as well as the influence of Mary Oliver, the celebrated poet who passed away in January 2019. As the ravages of climate change intensify, Kratz turns to the poetry and prose of Oliver, who "dealt with sorrow by speaking about it and filtering it into something beautiful." These recent works are, in part, an homage to Oliver's words, whose powers "put some sort of creative, visual spell on me."

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Mayme Kratz was born in 1958, in San Diego County. Her work has been exhibited at the Phoenix Art Museum, the Tucson Museum of Art, the Scottsdale Museum of Art, and the Museum of Glass in Tacoma, among other notable institutions. She has received numerous recognitions for her practice, including a Contemporary Forum mid-career award and exhibition at the Phoenix Art Museum in 2011 as well as residencies with the Art in Embassies Program, the Museum of Glass in Tacoma, and the Pilchuck Glass School. Her art can be found in public and private collections throughout the United States.

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Mayme Kratz

b. 1958, San Diego County

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2020 Vanishing Light, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2019 Dark is Light, Lisa Sette Gallery, Phoenix AZ
- 2017 Dust to Dust, Littlejohn Contemporary, New York NY
Distances, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco CA
- 2016 Long After the Echo, Lisa Sette Gallery, Phoenix AZ
- 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

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Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2020 [Re]Purposed, Phoenix Art Museum, The Hub: James Ballinger Interactive Gallery, Phoenix, AZ
Serenity Now: Meditations on Humanity, Lisa Sette Gallery, Phoenix, AZ
- 2019-20 Flora and Fauna, Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum, Mesa, AZ
- 2018 Here and Now, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco CA
Circle/Squared, Lisa Sette Gallery, Phoenix AZ
Wild Thing: Adventures with the Permanent Collection, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Scottsdale, AZ
- 2017 Artist as Subject: 20th Anniversary Show, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco CA
Terra Mater, Etherton Gallery, Tucson AZ
- 2016 Indestructible Wonder, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose CA
Mayme Kratz & Marie Navarre, Lisa Sette Gallery, Phoenix AZ
- 2015 30 Year Anniversary, Lisa Sette Gallery, Phoenix AZ
Lightning Strikes, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco CA
- 2014 Hello Midtown, Lisa Sette Gallery, Phoenix AZ
Palm Springs Fine Art Fair, Palm Springs CA
- 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

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- 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
- 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

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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
San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose CA
Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Scottsdale AZ
Tucson Museum of Art, Tucson AZ

Selected Bibliography

Young, Amy. Art In The Valley, Three Must-Know Artists, AZ-Lifestyle, December 2016
Bickley, Taryn. Natural Wonder, Style Maker, Luxe Interiors and Design, October 2016
Escudero, Nicki. Lost Light, American Art Collector, June 2015
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
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. Dominck. "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.

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September 2002

Sasse, Julie. "Intimate Discoveries: Nature and Poetry in the Art of Mayme Kratz" Therefore Exhibition, Tucson Museum of Art. September 2002

Roots, Garrsion. "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

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