

# DOLBY CHADWICK GALLERY

## Mayme Kratz

### *Distances*

Dolby Chadwick Gallery is pleased to announce “Distances,” an exhibition of new work by Mayme Kratz, on view from December 9, 2017 to January 27, 2018. Kratz’s mixed media works feature elements of the natural world—such as seed pods, pinecones, grass, shells, and rattlesnake ribs—which she encases in layers of polymer resin to create lyrical microcosms of the landscapes from which she draws.

Kratz’s relationship with nature was fomented as a child growing up just east of San Diego on the edge of the Anza-Borrego Desert, where she spent hours playing outside. Finding solace in a wilderness framed by dramatic mountains and brimming with foliage, she developed a reverence for nature—including its smallest of details—that would become part of her personal and aesthetic language.

The artist likens her process to that of creating a visual journal. For example, the materials she collects while hiking become recordings of a specific time and place, such as a weed that she weaves into a nest or a knot. Living near the desert, in Phoenix, Arizona, means Kratz has to look carefully, scanning the dry, exposed earth in what becomes a desperate hunt to discover small, beautiful things. She notes that when she’s out foraging, her response to one leaf or tumbleweed but not another is rooted in pure intuition: “It’s as if it speaks to me, and all of a sudden there’s a relationship. It’s almost immediate.” While there is often a correlation between the arrangement of a given composition and the organic matter it spotlights, this does not occur consciously. Kratz studies her objects under a microscope—a form of close looking that helps inform her process—but the compositions ultimately come together organically, without intensive premeditation. Outside forces also influence the artist’s choices, as evidenced by the ongoing “Circle Dream” series, which began in response to a dream.

Once she has the objects arranged, Kratz secures them to a birch panel before slowly layering in the resin. In addition to coloring the resin and adjusting for opacity, she sometimes paints the panel to give a work a certain tone, a particular depth, or the slight indication of a landscape. After she builds the medium up to the desired thickness, she begins sanding into the exposed objects, opening them up to reveal their as-yet-unknown inner lives and stopping when the surface becomes flush. The objects consequently appear to almost float, as if the viewer is looking down into a shallow pool or up into an evening sky; the colored resin amplifies the effect, collapsing distinctions between the four classical elements: earth, air, water—even fire. In *Dust to Dust 2* (2017), for example, desert grasses have been arranged to form a sunburst. Their dry, ochre, and burnt-sienna root structures, which radiate out from the center, convey a heat that underscores the composition’s fiery energy. At the same time, the explosion is frozen within the balance established by the deep blue resin framing, allowing the viewer to zoom in and explore its inner workings.

Kratz explains that part of her job is to bring beauty into the world and share it with others, which she does by calling attention to the small and exquisite yet often overlooked moments that unfold all around us, all the time. In a poem by Philippe Jaccottet—also titled “Distances”—which marvels at earth’s expansive beauty and capacity to nourish, there is a line that reads: “We live in a world of motion and distance.” While these words could be read in any number of ways, Kratz points to a collective forgetting of our place in the natural world, the result of moving through

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time too quickly or of having lost touch with what lies at the core of the human experience. Two separate worlds consequently emerge: one of man-made events that is defined by tension and stress, and one that exists at a deeper level and from which life opens out. This often unseen and unfelt layer is the one with which Kratz seeks to forge a connection: by moving deeper into nature and confronting the sublime, even at the smallest of scales, we “reach deeper into life, to the poetry of existence.”

Mayme Kratz was born in 1958, in San Diego County, and has lived in Phoenix, Arizona, since 1986. She has been the subject of solo exhibitions at the Phoenix Art Museum, Tucson Museum of Art, and Museum of Glass in Tacoma, Washington. In addition to being granted residencies as part of the Art in Embassies Program, at the Museum of Glass in Tacoma, and at the Pilchuck Glass School, she was also awarded a mid-career prize and exhibition at the Phoenix Art Museum. Kratz’s work is held in public and private collections throughout the United States.

**Mayme Kratz**

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b. 1958, San Diego County

## Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2017 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

## Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2018 Wild Thing: Adventures with the Permanent Collection, Scottsdale Museum of

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- 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  
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

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- 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
- 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

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

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Exhibition, Tucson Museum of Art. September 2002  
Roots, Garrson. "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