

REYNOLDS GALLERY

NANCY BLUM

New Work

November 3 - December 22, 2017

Opening Reception
Friday, November 3
7 - 9 pm



Harmony, 2017, ink, colored pencil, gouache, and graphite on paper, 38 ½ x 50 inches
Photograph by Malcolm Varon

Reynolds Gallery is pleased to announce *New Work*, an exhibition of Nancy Blum's wildly detailed mixed media drawings. The show opens on Friday, November 3 from 7 - 9 pm and continues through December 22, 2017. A gallery talk will follow on Saturday, November 4 at 10 am.

Nancy Blum's impressive watercolor and colored pencil paintings capture nature's endless energy. Her large-scale works present elaborate and accurate renditions, yet she composes each piece in an inventive way—commingling flowers that normally grow apart in nature. She states, "I use botanical motifs to create images that are universally associated with growth and continuity. My deeper intent is to conjure the 'flower' as an active, forceful agent, subverting a culturally conditioned point of view that often deems the ephemeral and the organic as less powerful and of limited value. My 'wonderland' presents a view of life that pulses with expansive fecundity; hopefully, it also propels comprehension of the connectedness of all beings within the limitless energy operating throughout this world."

Blum's pulsing compositions overlap tiny crosshatched lines and washy streaks of color to create dimension and texture. Her use of material intensifies the varied line work as waxy colored pencil intersects sleek outlines of ink. The oscillating relationship between background and foreground, bloom and stem, texture and material mimics the fragile balance of nature. Blum's seemingly ethereal renditions transcend delicacy as we dive deeper into a tangled web of floral seduction.

In conjunction with the exhibition, Blum releases her first published monograph, surveying nearly 20 years of her drawing, sculpture, and public art works. The book presents a visual and literary overview of her achievements, including a foreword by multi-disciplinary theater artist and filmmaker Nikki Appino, an interview between Blum and Eric Brenner (professor of biology at Pace University), and an essay by curator and editor Ashley Kistler, who also developed the book's thematic structure. The book was designed and produced by Richmond-based company Scout Design.

The Brooklyn-based artist was born in Champaign, IL (1963) and later earned her MFA from the Cranbrook Academy of Art (1991). She has exhibited at the Weatherspoon Art Museum, UNC

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Greensboro, NC; Shore Institute of Contemporary Art, Long Branch, NJ; Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, AZ; Reynolds Gallery, and Visual Arts Center, both, Richmond, VA; The International Print Center, Nancy Margolis Gallery, Ricco Maresca Gallery, and the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, all, NY. Her work is held in the collections of the World Ceramic Exposition Foundation, Icheon, South Korea; The University of Washington Medical Center, Seattle, WA; and the Boise Art Museum; ID, among others. She has executed several major public art projects including works at the San Francisco General Hospital, light-rail stations in Minneapolis/St.Paul, Charlotte Area Transit System, and New York City's Dobbs Ferry Station, among others. Currently, she is finalizing a New York MTA Arts & Design Commission for the 28th Street subway station. Among many accolades she has received a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, Peter S. Reed Foundation Grant, Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation Creative Fellowship Grant, and a Lower East Side Printshop Fellowship, all, New York, NY.

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