

MARY HRBACEK

Entwined

CURATED BY RICHARD PASQUARELLI

“All that was Daphne bowed
in the stirring of the wind
the glittering green leaf
twined within her hair,
and she was laurel.”
Ovid, *THE METAMORPHOSES*

April 6 – April 30, 2011

OPENING RECEPTION: April 6th 6 – 9 p.m.



Entwined, acrylic on linen, 40 x 44,” 2007

CREON GALLERY is pleased to present *Entwined*, MARY HRBACEK’S second solo show at the gallery. *Entwined* titles a new group of paintings that HRBACEK completed since her immersion in the observation of anthropomorphic trees.

On the surface, HRBACEK’S vision may seem unfamiliar, odd or unusual as she strips away external appearances to reveal the essence of each tree, with a view to discovering a deeper reality that binds all human and natural elements of the world in an underlying principle of unity. HRBACEK’S individualistic qualities make her work unique and indefinable, revealing an eternal vision of tree “figures,” some on the verge of becoming, others transforming into recognizable figural forms that prompt a faster interpretation.

In paintings such as *Entwined* simplified modeled forms verge on cartoon imagery. The contorted tree limbs swirl in opposing directions, but ultimately remain interwoven. Flat honed symbolic shapes signifying abstracted physical features create tension, in contrast with the toy-like interwoven tree forms that embed them. The metallic-looking limbs float in anonymous blue space charged with a mysterious feeling of tranquility. In other works, such as *Light Search*, the tree figure is steeped in pathos. Twisted in apparent discomfort, it reaches metaphorically for “light,” for answers, for relief from anxiety and the tension that arises from life itself. The upper boughs recall the long fingers and protruding knuckles of human hands. The branches carve the pictorial space into clearly defined shapes that unify the format.

MARY HRBACEK (born Alexandria, Va., lives and works in NYC) has been exhibiting her artwork for more than twenty years at galleries and museums in New York City and across the country. She has shown internationally in Canada, China, Korea and Kyrgyzstan. In 2010 she presented her drawings in a two-person show at Elliott Louis Gallery in Vancouver, curated by Lynn Ruscheinsky, founder of the “Drawn Festival.” She participated in a notable museum show at the Parrish Art Museum, curated by Sara Nightingale and in a show at The National Academy of Design. In 2006, she exhibited her drawings in a five-month installation at Roger Smith, curated by Dominick Lombardi. HRBACEK’S most recent solo exhibition was the inaugural show at CREON Gallery in New York City, 2009. Her work has been included in more than fifty group exhibitions in New York City, Toronto, Vancouver, California, Georgia, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Virginia. She has participated in many university exhibitions, including *The American Drawing Biennial VI*, Muscarelle Museum, at William and Mary College, VA, where she received the Juror’s Prize from Ann Philbin of the Drawing Center.

GALLERY HOURS: Wed. & Thurs. 4-8 p.m. Sat. 12 – 6 p.m. or by Appt.
Reading by Roberta Allen April 12, 7 p.m.
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