

BRIGITTE CARNOCHAN Emily's Garden







Opening Reception, Friday, September 6, 5-7 PM Exhibition is on view September 6 - October 27, 2019

Obscura Gallery is thrilled to present our Fall solo exhibition by gallery artist Brigitte Carnochan and her new photographs inspired by the poems of Emily Dickinson. Brigitte Carnochan and Emily Dickinson share a passion for flowers that inspire both their mediums. Brigitte's career has centered around the sensuality and beauty of botanicals and nudes, and in this new work, she circles back to her original subject matter of nearly four decades ago when she began by painting on her gelatin silver floral images with oil paints. Having been drawn increasingly over the years to the narrative possibilities in photographs, Carnochan incorporates in this series lines of poems in Dickinson's own handwriting, inconspicuously or half hidden. The resulting images are printed with the 19th century platinum palladium photo process onto handmade Japanese gampi paper that she delicately backs with gold leaf, giving the images the look and feel of 19th century daguerreotypes, with which Dickinson would have been familiar.

Dickinson's poems are widely admired and her life mythologized. Given that her poetry is unusual in its structure and handling of language—sometimes even opaque—what is it that attracts such interest and devotion? Much is owing to the richness and mystery of her imagery, especially those flowers that become the vivid metaphors for her thoughts on every subject. Her poems were gardens in which she planted the flowers of her imagination. She used the 19th century "language of flowers," in which an emotion or quality was commonly ascribed to a particular flower, but went beyond it to create visual bouquets of her own meaning. She makes herself the flower in her garden of the poem.



BRIGITTE CARNOCHAN, The happy happy leaves, 2018, 8.5 x 6", edition of 15, platinum/palladium on Japanese gampi paper with gold leaf.

My first photographs were of flowers and I suspect my last will be as well. I have been drawn to gardens and to flowers, their exotic geometry and sensuous rigor, as long as I can remember. It is a rare day that there are no fresh flowers on my breakfast table. I share these feelings with Emily Dickinson, also a devoted gardener and lover of flowers, who often sent bouquets from her garden, accompanied by her poems, to friends and acquaintances.



BRIGITTE CARNOCHAN, The daisy follows the soft sun, 2018, 8.5 x 6", edition of 15, platinum/palladium on Japanese gampi paper with gold leaf.

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Dickinson's poems first captured my imagination in high school—and her grip has never let go. I'm not alone. Her poems are widely admired and her life mythologized. Thousands of books include her poems or analyze them, and recent films star Cynthia Nixon as the talented, reclusive, poet in A Quiet Passion and Molly Shannon as Emily obsessed and in love with her sister-in-law Susan in the comedy, Wild Nights with Emily. A new Apple web series, also a comedy, looks at Emily's early years and her fight to get her voice heard.



BRIGITTE CARNOCHAN, One note from one bird, 2018, 8.5 x 6", edition of 15, platinum/palladium on Japanese gampi paper with gold leaf.

I have tried to capture the spirit and depth of her poetry as embodied in her floral metaphors—the poesy of her posies—by including in her own handwriting the line of a poem, inconspicuously or half hidden, on which my image is based. She wrote almost 1800 poems, adorned with many hundreds of floral references. I had a wealth of inspiration.

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BRIGITTE CARNOCHAN, Nobody knows, 2018, 8.5 x 6", edition of 15, platinum/palladium on Japanese gampi paper with gold leaf.

The images are printed with platinum/palladium on handmade Japanese gampi paper and backed with gold leaf. The lines of Dickinson's poems generously provided online in the Emily Dickinson Archive (EDA) are used by permission of Houghton Library of Harvard University and Amherst College Archives & Special Collections, who own the originals.



BRIGITTE CARNOCHAN, Lost in Balms, 2018, 8.5 x 6", edition of 15, platinum/palladium on Japanese gampi paper with gold leaf.

To see this entire series by Brigitte Carnochan please visit our website link: https://www.obscuragallery.net/artwork/artists/brigitte-carnochan/emilys-garden/

For more information about the exhibition please contact Owner/Director Jennifer Schlesinger at info@obscuragallery.net or call 505-577-6708.

THE GALLERY LOCATION AND HOURS

Obscura Gallery is located in the Santa Fe downtown historic district two blocks east of the revitalized Downtown Railyard district at the corner of Galisteo St. and Paseo de Peralta. Gallery hours are Tuesday — Saturday, 11-5pm and by appointment.

Parking is limited. Additional parking is available Monday – Friday from 8:00am – 9:00pm at the State Capitol Parking Facility municipal garage located at 485 Galisteo Street. There is also metered parking always available on Galisteo street next to the Parking Facility.

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