



OLIVIA MUNROE: *PENTIMENTO*

November 11 - December 5, 2012

Artist's Reception: Sunday, November 11, 2012, 5 - 7PM

ARC Fine Art is pleased to announce the upcoming exhibition of constructed collages and works on paper by Olivia Munroe. On view from November 11 through December 5, with an Artist's Reception on Sunday November 11, Munroe's *Pentimento* is the artist's second solo exhibition at the gallery.

Olivia Munroe's newest body of work, the "Pentimento" series, maintains her original technique, which evolves from an intensely inventive use of material and process. Titling both the show and this series, *pentimento* is the trace of earlier work visible beneath the layers of an artist's composition. Munroe continues to use imagery inspired by the essential, archetypal symbols found in the artistic heritage of world cultures: the circle and the square. The geometric forms serve as symbolic fragments of a past time as they stand on their superimposed layers of beeswax, cloth, string, and gold on rag. Over the last year, the palette has expanded to include rich, bright tones in pinks, oranges, and reds. Munroe, who has traveled and lived in Italy, draws inspiration from Renaissance artists, most notably Fra Angelico. While finding new parallels in Renaissance frescoes and paintings, these works continue to evoke contemplation and meditative spirituality with their simple splendor, derived from Munroe's reliance on fundamental geometric forms.

Also on view are works from Munroe's "Histories" series. Each sheet, measuring 9 3/4 x 7 5/8 inches, conjures an intimate experience of form. Inspired by ancient pages of text, particularly illuminated manuscripts, sacred writings, scrolls, codices, and sutras, the imagery is a nonliteral rendition of past forms of writing. The series, which emphasizes the tactility of writing and paper, is an ode to the written word. Amidst the intricately patterned symbols reminiscent of ancient blocks of writing, Munroe continues to use the simple, fundamental geometric forms of the circle and the square as her source in many of the works in this series. The palette, which began in an exploration of turquoise and gold tones, expands with an explosion of pinks, deep purples, and golden oranges and reds.

The final group of works on view is a selection of four collages from her "Paper Target" series. These works expand on ideas first explored in two works from the "Edge of Infinity" series, wherein Munroe reduced the composition to a single black circle. Munroe expands the composition in her new works to include increasingly complex configurations composed exclusively of circles and squares. The deliberate, minimized compositions, with strictly defined edges, evoke ideas of the finite and tangible. These works retain the quietude and simplicity achieved from a dependence on the geometric forms of the circle and the square.

Munroe has exhibited her work for the past four decades. Her award-winning etchings published by John Szoke Graphics are included in numerous public, private, and corporate collections

including The Metropolitan Museum of Art and The Smithsonian. In 1995 she founded "The Striped Umbrella," an innovative art and design workshop for children and adults.

ARC Fine Art LLC is located at 3113 Bronson Road in Fairfield, CT and is open by appointment and select weekend days. Further inquiries, please contact Adrienne Ruger Conzelman at 203 895 9595.