



OLIVIA MUNROE: *TWO ELEMENTS*

August 7 - August 19, 2014

Artist's Reception: Saturday, August 9, 2014, 5 - 7PM

ARC Fine Art is pleased to announce its upcoming exhibition OLIVIA MUNROE: *TWO ELEMENTS*. On view from August 7th through August 19th at the gallery's Amagansett location, OLIVIA MUNROE: *TWO ELEMENTS* will open with an artist's reception on Saturday, August 9th from 5 - 7pm. This is one of three featured solo shows ARC Fine Art will be hosting throughout the summer, and Munroe's third solo show with the gallery.

Two Elements features three distinct bodies of work within Munroe's oeuvre: "Constructed Collages," "Edges of Infinity" and "Histories." Showcasing Munroe's artistic developments over the past decade, these works evoke contemplation and meditative spirituality with their simple splendor, which derives from Munroe's continued reliance on fundamental geometric forms.

Munroe's newest body of mixed media work, "Constructed Collages" maintains her original technique, which evolves from the intensely inventive use of material and process. A distinguished printmaker, Munroe has developed an original technique for these collages that involves superimposing layers of beeswax, cloth, string, and gold on rag, creating rich texture and complexity in her work. As seen in her previous series, Munroe continues to use imagery inspired by the essential, archetypal symbols found in the artistic heritage of world cultures: the circle and the square. However, in works such as *Way and Surviving Secrets #7*, Munroe departs from the stability and order that define the remaining works. *Way* offers a meandering composition of line while maintaining a sense of tranquility whereas *Surviving Secrets #7* possesses a more lively patchwork arrangement found in earlier compositions within the *Surviving Secrets* series.

The exhibition also features a collection of Munroe's graphite drawings from her "Edges of Infinity" series, in which Munroe reduces the composition to a single black circle. 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 form of the circle.

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.

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 303 Main Street in Amagansett, NY and is open Thursday through Monday from 10am to 6pm. Further inquiries, please contact Adrienne Ruger Conzelman at 203 895 9595.