

artdose

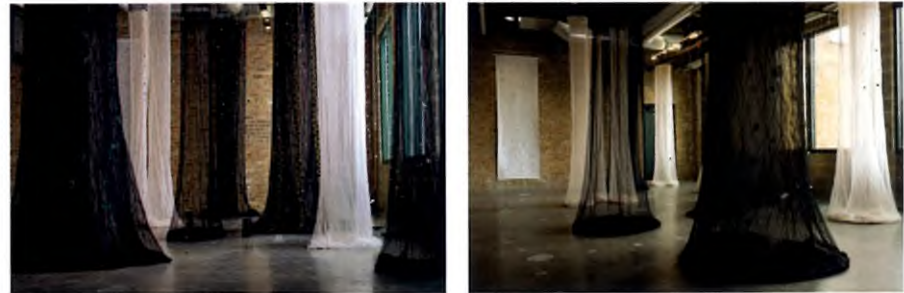
MAGAZINE

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Cover Artist : Katherine Steichen Rosing

Frank Juarez



Black and White Spirit Trees: 144 inches high, diameters range from 16 inches to 55 inches. Sewn from crushed tulle, and crushed voile. Embroidered patterns created with yarn, embroidery floss, beads, sequins.

My first encounter with Katherine's work was at the 2020 Secura Fine Arts Exhibition at the Trout Museum of Art in Appleton, Wisconsin, right before the pandemic started. Her piece titled, "Resonance", caught my eye due to its large size. From afar it looked like a textile tapestry, however, as I took a closer look, it was a painting. Her love for texture and color are evident in both her paintings and textile works. The way she applies texture to her painting translates in the similar manner as a textile artist weaves fiber. About a year later, she was a guest artist in our Artdose Talks Series, which is our version of a virtual artist talk. It was through this platform, that I learned more about her work, her vision, and her most recent textile installation, "When a Tree Thrives", at the Garver Feed Mill in Madison, Wisconsin.

"When a Tree Thrives", is an immersive installation, envisions the atmosphere and the important role trees play in removing carbon dioxide and mitigating effects of the climate crisis through the process of photosynthesis. Rosing hopes the work encourages viewers to find ways to minimize our carbon output and support reforestation.

Rosing writes, "As a native Wisconsinite, our forests and lakes are an important part of my soul. Forests reveal cycles of time and nature which emerge in my paintings and drawings coded as rhythmic patterns of line, negative space, color, and texture. Every forest is different, and ever changing. Phases of life

can be seen everywhere from the slender saplings and immense mature trees, to the diseased and fallen. In the quiet pools within the forests, ripples from insects, animals, and drizzling rain interact and disappear -- ephemeral events."

Immersed in a forest, lost in the luscious whorls of lichen, she remembers that lichen can be a sign of clean air, or a weakening tree. The rhythmic contrasts of narrow and wide trunks, vertical, diagonal, or horizontal, narrate the history of the forest from the elders to the saplings. She feels the bodies of the trees dwarf and engulf me making me part of the forest, for the moment. Peering at ripples on a pond, she wonders about the disturbances above and below. The chaos and tumult of modern human life melts away for a little while and she is in a timeless zone.

Surface and color are important in Rosing's paintings where she develops relief surfaces to enhance the play of light and color like nature's textures. She works in a wide range of sizes and formats from intimate oval paintings on birch panel to very large paintings on unstretched canvas and ten-foot long scroll drawings on archival Tyvek. She likes the intimacy of small works invite exploration of the surface while huge works engulf and surround us like wilderness.

Visit studioksr.com and Instagram at [@katherinerosing](https://www.instagram.com/katherinerosing) to see more work.