



CONTEMPORARY IMAGES IN PRINT SINCE 1915

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Taryn McMahon: Shade Beneath Trees of My Own Planting

June 7 – July 27, 2013

Thursday, June 6: Gallery Talk by the Artist, 5:30pm; Opening Reception 6:00-8:00pm

PHILADELPHIA: -(June 1, 2013)- Taryn McMahon, a printmaker and installation artist, is creating *Shade Beneath Trees of My Own Planting*, a large-scale site-specific installation, made up of cascading printed Mylar panels. Inspired by 17th and 18th century botanical engravings, space age cartoons and nature documentaries, McMahon creates dynamic works that explore printmaking's connections to reproducibility, layering and recording.

McMahon is particularly drawn to the work of Maria Sibylla Merian, a late 17th century naturalist and scientific illustrator, who made extensive studies of local animals and plants in Europe and Surinam. As McMahon stated, Merian's works "waver between fact and fiction, ecological and anthropocentric ideologies, and art and science. She continuously reused bits and pieces of previous compositions in new works, self-cannibalizing her own artistic practice to develop her unique language. I feel an artistic camaraderie in this aspect of her work, and am equally fascinated by her life as a female artist in her time. Like a DJ spinning sounds culled from disparate sources, I endlessly remix forms from Merian's engravings, my own drawings, and other popular culture."

Shade Beneath Trees of My Own Planting continues McMahon's series of ambitiously scaled site-specific installations. The work combines repeating botanical imagery, printed in hot colors, with coolly geometric forms. McMahon's imagery is screenprinted on both Mylar and wood with details of glitter and glass microbeads added to the ink. Responding to The Print Center's 19th century gallery, long printed panels will drape down the gallery's walls, acting as both two dimensional prints and sculptural objects.

McMahon received her BFA from The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA; and an MA and MFA from the University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA. Her work has been included in recent exhibitions at Unsmoke Artspace, Braddock, PA; Carroll Gallery, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA; The Lawrence Arts Center Gallery, Lawrence, KS; Zoller Gallery, University Park, PA; Islensk Grafik, Reykjavik, Iceland; and Patton-Malott Gallery, Anderson Ranch Arts Center, Snowmass Village, CO. Her work is in the collections of Art in Embassies Program, Collection of the US Embassy, Reykjavik, Iceland; Anchor Graphics, Chicago, IL; University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA; and Women's Studio Workshop, Rosendale, NY. She teaches printmaking at West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV.

Taryn McMahon: Shade Beneath Trees of My Own Planting will be on view June 7 – July 27, 2013. The opening reception is Thursday, June 6 from 6:00-8:00pm, with a gallery talk by the artist at 5:30pm. McMahon was awarded this solo exhibition from The Print Center's 87th Annual International Competition juried by Irene Hofmann, Phillips Director & Chief Curator, SITE Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM.

The Print Center supports printmaking and photography as vital contemporary arts and encourages the appreciation of the printed image in all its forms. The Print Center presents a variety of programs for the public including exhibitions; The Print Center Gallery Store, which offers the largest and most diverse selection of contemporary prints in Philadelphia; the longest running annual international competition for prints and photographs in the country; and an extensive series of education programs and special events.