

Stephen Rivers & Linda Vallejo

re(cycle)



Stephen Rivers



Linda Vallejo

January 3 – January 31, 2009
Reception: Saturday, January 3, 6 – 9 pm

Stephen Rivers utilizes natural fauna found just under the surface of the ocean to collaborate with his biomorphic forms. A myriad of organisms attach themselves to the work of art that creates an array of textures to the form is the foundation of the finished work.

The work being submerged goes through a transformation metamorphosis development. Depending on ocean conditions, the piece takes 8 to 12 months before it is retrieved from the water. A drying process follows with numerous coats of resin applied allowing the finished form.

The shapes & forms that are minute life forms witnessed just below the surface are presented in the works on paper. These forms are observed when the artist is checking the progress of the sculptures during the immersion process. The rhythm of the ebb and flow cycles of the seasons will have varying effects on the final outcome of any given piece.

The works on paper and sculpture are a sort of time capsule that witnesses a point of activity which once was. Preservation is a quality the artist exploits along with the idea of dual symbiotic creativity in the natural world.

In *(re)cycle* Linda Vallejo art will present multiple double-entendres circling around the idea of recycling trash, recycling attitudes, and recycling art. Vallejo will present ***Earth's Altar Diorama*** and ***Earth's Altar Silver***, mixed-media postproduction sculptures "recycling" the artists paintings to create shrines commemorating the rapidly vanishing beauties of the our wild spaces. Western religious art also underlies the shapes of ***Postmodern Trash*** that recycles the detritus of our daily lives into deeply ironic shrines and votive objects. Vallejo will also present ***Censored***, mixed media newspaper collages penetrating contemporary political and social issues.

That Vallejo is able to channel and draw on so many aspects of her experience without breaking stride or overloading the viewer is a testament to her strengths as an artist." Ann Landi, Contributing editor of ARTnews and author of the four-volume Schirmer Encyclopedia of Art

Vallejo's interests and subject-matter spans are considerable. Themes of beauty, consumption, war, excess, world pollution, iconic references to international indigenous peoples and earth-based installations all reside in her works." William Moreno, Director, Claremont Museum of Art