2008

Herb Rosenberg: Dialogue with an Ancient Forest

Herb Rosenberg

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Dialogue with an Ancient Forest
This catalogue accompanies the exhibition
Dialogue with an Ancient Forest,
on display at the Walsh Gallery
March 3rd - April 11th, 2008

FRONT COVER: Herb Rosenberg,
Dialogue with an Ancient Forest - installation detail

Installation soundtrack by Andrew Rosenberg

All photographs are courtesy of Andre Schklowsky and the artist

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The exhibition was organized by Jeanne Brasile, Director, Walsh Gallery

The catalogue was designed by Gianluca Bianchino

Catalogue edited by Gianluca Bianchino and Jeanne Brasile

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On a recent trip to California, I was fortunate enough to spend time amongst the Redwood and Sequoia groves in Napa and Yosemite. Surrounded by these noble giants, my spirit was transformed by the realization that many of these trees date to over 2,000 years old. It was humbling - a reminder that our lives are fleeting in comparison. The experience also brought to mind a less inspiring realization, that human intervention such as encroachment, fires, milling and global climate change have caused the destruction of many of these stately trees. Similarly, Herb’s Rosenberg’s “Dialogue with an Ancient Forest” fosters reflection upon these same matters.

The elegant columns that comprise “Dialogue with an Ancient Forest” dwarf visitors with their large-scale. It is an experience akin to being in a dense wood. Lights shifts as viewers move throughout the gallery, reflected and refracted by the surface of Rosenberg’s aluminum titans. The effect is comparable to the changing light patterns in a forest as the sun moves across the sky, or as the wind gently flutters branches above, shifting light and shadow beneath the canopy. Each of the columns is unique, embodying the individual nature of the trees, of ourselves. Like a magnificent forest, it is awe-inspiring to be in their presence.

To know Herb is to understand his profound connection to art, the environment, social and moral causes. “Dialogue with an Ancient Forest” is not purely an opportunity to look; it is an immersive experience – an occasion to understand one artist’s passion for life. Rosenberg gives viewers a reason to reflect upon beauty while simultaneously calling to mind deeper issues.
In the first decade of the 21st century, a new breed of Formalism is emerging. It is predicated on a new aesthetic which is being forged by artists like Herb Rosenberg. This aesthetic re-examines seminal issues that are imbedded in traditional Modernity, revisiting them against the ebb and wane of a formalist Postmodernism, as well as dying Modernism with its over dependence on machines and technology.

What is new in his art is Rosenberg’s courageous dependency on feeling as a component within his current abstract works. This new artistic tendency is the first salvo across the deck of radical Neo-Conceptual art, which is perpetually glorifying and now advocating the inevitable end of ‘human’ art. Corporeally, Rosenberg’s art epitomizes that which is meant to be human, a human being.

Dr. José Rodeiro
Fellow, National Endowment for the Arts
Visual Artist, Professor of Art History
New Jersey City University, New Jersey
Rosenberg’s work has developed a most magnificent technique to express human emotions. His monumental columns speak across cultural boundaries. The Guangdong Museum is very pleased to have acquired one of his columns.

Huangsheng Wang
Director
Guangdong Museum of Fine Arts
Guangzhou, China

In this artwork the parallel nature of the forest sings to me a sweet song with a twist of humour bound up in the fantastic material of aluminum. It’s a strong reminder of our relationship with the earth.

Neal Livingston
Environmentalist, Artist
Filmmaker
Former Chair National Conservation Committee, Sierra Club of Canada
Nova Scotia, Canada
Herb is swiftly becoming the most outstanding artist we have ever graduated…[from Harper College SUNY.]

Dr. Kenneth Lindsay,
Kandinsky Scholar
Professor Emeritus
Binghamton University, New York

Capturing his audience with striking boldness and intimate imagery Rosenberg’s work commands attention.

Roland Saynz
Director
Jadite Gallery
New York City
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In Memorium

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Priscilla Pazmino