

Woman Made Gallery - 685 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, IL 60622

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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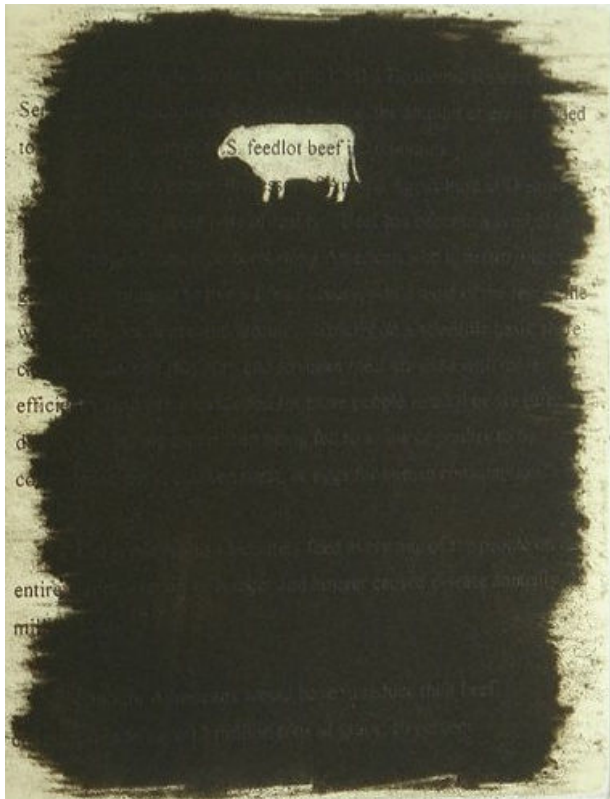
Nature House

Group and Solo Exhibitions at WMG

May 25 – June 21, 2007

Opening Reception: May 25

Woman Made Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of *Nature House* with works by 40 artists and poets and solo exhibitions *Out of Balance* with collages by Rosemary Lockett, Show Juror and *Bag World* with mixed media art by Mary Ellen Croteau. The Artisan Gallery at Woman Made exhibits work with ‘Contents Include: Metal Clay.’



With both poetry and art, the *Nature House* exhibition goes beyond the typical landscape show. Selected artists look at how humankind treats our planet “house”—specifically, the positive or negative interplay between people and the natural world.

Juror Rosemary Lockett selected works that show a wide range of thought and imagery and all hit the nail on the head by revealing subtly, or not so subtly, how each of us is complicit in detrimental changes to the environment. Mirka Hokkanen’s cow on a black field refers to feedlot pollution and wasted resources that are abetted by a national appetite for fast food burgers (see inserted image.) Houses fill the entire space in Jessica Maloney’s “Impact” painting, and are echoed in Alis Olsen’s sculpture, “Development,” a tree stump topped with houses. Open and occupied spaces are connected by highways in Jen Curry’s “Untitled (Man v. Nature)” eight-part painting, in Fred Bower’s “7 Years: Tire America to CVS Pharmacy” photograph, and in Jacob Lunow’s “Bridge” photograph. Jennifer Weigel and Elizabeth Wyrsh connect the dots between changing trees into paper, a messy polluting business, and our profligate use of paper products. Wielding a powerful brush Victoria Szilagy captures the mechanical process of harnessing electricity from water in her “Force” painting.

Contrary to the many works in this show representing contaminated landscapes, a few describe the carefully tended or gardened terrain that we think about so fondly, and which has been our legacy for so long. We get a glimpse of that in Henrietta DuBois’ collaged photograph, “Mesa Verde,” in Kathleen Kirk’s “Sweet Autumn Clematis” poem and in Maureen Flannery Tolman’s poem, “Regeneration.” In another vein, Christina Canzoneri contemplates the worth of a wee creature in her poem, “Snail in My Coffee.”

Each poem and each artwork is a gem to be enjoyed, contemplated, and then absorbed into our cells so we don’t forget the truthful and challenging ideas each artist puts before us. It takes real courage to make art about the discouraging

state of our nature house today and even more fortitude to alter our lifestyles in ways that return to the earth at least some of what we have taken from it.

Participating artists include Fred Bower, Christina Canzoneri, Bushra Chaudry, Karin Vance Chickadel, Jen Curry, Betsy Dollar, Henrietta DuBois, Laura C. Hewitt, Pamela Hobbs, Mirka Hokkanen, Christine Ilewski, Zev Jonas, Jessica Key, Ray Klimek, Mary Longley, Jacob Lunow, Jessica Maloney, Michael McAvoy, Marianne McCarthy, Kendall Mingey, Catherine Cella Neapolitan, M. Francesca Notowidigdo, Mascha Oehlmann, Alis Olsen, Catherine Prose, Nancy Reid, Julia Samuels, Victoria Szilagyi, Heather Van Wolf, Jennifer Weigel, Katherine Wright, Elizabeth Wyrsh.

Participating poets include Christina Canzoneri, Sheila A. Donovan, Susanna Lang, CC Lawhon, Katherine M. Quimby, Rita Salluzzi, Kathleen Kirk, and Maureen Tolman Flannery.

An opening reception will be held on May 25th from 6 until 9 p.m. and works will be on display until June 21st .
<http://womanmade.org/pdfs/press-naturehouse2007.pdf>

Poets who are selected by Rosemary Luckett as part of the Nature House exhibit will read their works in conjunction with the visual art exhibit on Sunday, June 30th from 2 to 4pm.

<http://womanmade.org/show.html?type=group&gallery=naturehouse2007&pic=1>

Woman Made Gallery

685 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Chicago, IL 60622

Website: www.womanmade.org

Gallery Hours: Wed-Fri noon-7pm / Sat-Sun noon-4pm / Admission: Free

Woman Made Gallery is supported in part by grants from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; a CityArts Program II grant from the City of Chicago, Department of Cultural Affairs; the Chicago Community Foundation; the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; the Polk Bros. Foundation; the Hugh M. Hefner Foundation; the Efroymsen Fund, a CICF Fund; and the generosity of its members and contributors.

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