

Amy Kao and Eva Zethraeus at Hostler Burrows, New York

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"Borealis," 2018, by AMY KAO (1974, Taiwanese-American), Vinyl, Dimensions Variable; as installed, 35' Long, Varying Heights 11' - 16', Photo Credit: Robert J. Levin, Hostler Burrows (Courtesy: Artist and Hostler Burrows)

Hostler Burrows is showcasing contemporary artists Amy Kao's new works in vinyl, rubber and ink on paper and Eva Zethraeus' new ceramic works at its New York venue.

Kao's works are presented as a monumental vinyl wall installation, a large and detailed interwoven rubber relief work and a suite of highly concentrated ink drawings recalling dreamscapes. Her work consists of densely interwoven elaborate motifs as a way to showcase the visceral experience of nature and its impact on history and culture as it endures against the passage of time. Her vinyl installation and ink drawings are inspired to some extent by the themes and contours of traditional Chinese scroll paintings as well as the abundance of

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negative space typically found in Chinese landscape painting where gravity fails to exist. Kao says her works lies in the in-between and ambiguous space, “They are portals into mannered gardens of exotic fungi, oceanic invertebrates, single-celled organisms, interstellar debris and geometric formations. Interwoven pictorial fragments further heighten the sense of oscillation between perceived imageries and fleeting associations and between representation and abstraction.”

Eva Zethraeus finds inspiration in the phenomenon of the virus for her newest series of work. Her works reflects her fascination with the undeniable beauty of the life cycles of these microorganisms — how a microscopic cluster of genes and proteins can win over a host’s complicated defense mechanisms and, ensure its own survival while multiplying. Zethraeus is also taken by the dual natures of viruses as to how while some are deadly and create disease, there are those that are capable of the symbiotic merging and evolution of organisms. She makes use of her fascination and her ovure to create a new language in porcelain, constructing and deconstructing elaborate and intricate forms that capture the complex manner in which natural organisms evolve. Her exquisitely-wrought sculptures are the labor of a painstaking and complicated process, all the more wondrous as the finished works’ organic appearance belies the labors of the artist. While describing her works, she says, “my sculptures are the result of an ongoing research of form and the complicated nature of the ceramic process. Recent focus has been on the Golden Section and my fascination with the Fibonacci Series recurring in nature. Behind what seems to be a chaotic universe, everything is created through a secret code. What is harmony and why are some forms more appealing than others?”

Though varied in media and aesthetics, both Kao and Zethraeus draw inspiration from the unpredictable variances of nature through an intensely acute attention to detail within their artistic process.

The exhibition is on view through June 15, 2018 at Hostler Burrows, 35 East 10th Street, New York, USA