

# HEATHER JAMES

F I N E A R T

## FOREST FOR THE TREES AT HEATHER JAMES FINE ART, JACKSON, WY



Heather James Fine Art, Jackson, WY is pleased to present **Forest for the Trees**, a group exhibition on view July 24 - September 30, 2010. For more information, please contact Lyndsay McCandless at [lyndsay@heatherjames.com](mailto:lyndsay@heatherjames.com) or call 307-200-6090.

**Forest for the Trees** reinterprets the timeless idiom by showcasing works of art that express, conceptually and representationally, unique examinations of the natural environment from a broad perspective. The title of the exhibition also addresses the concept of individuality versus the group as each artist express in their own distinctive manner, important topics of the moment such as politics and the environment. The artists diverse works probe the myths and realities of nature and society and its relationship in contemporary culture. Their art simultaneously communicate the possibilities inherent in thinking of the larger picture while avoiding the disorienting focus on details. The exhibition features ten contemporary artists: Kelly Barrie, Matty Byloos, Penelope Gottlieb, Tim Hawkinson, Robert Ketchum, Kaoru Mansour, Naomi Safran-Hon, Tatiana Botton, Andrew Taylor and Timothy Tompkins.

**Kelly Barrie** creates photographs that explore the imaginary site where past and present converge. Using found photographs, the artist reconstructs the image through a performative floor drawing using photo-luminescent pigment (glo-powder) and his feet, walking out the image on the floor via a series of actions such as toe drags, heel spins, snake walks and foot sweeps.

**Tatiana Botton's** panorama style photographs of bamboo forests express her passion for travel, landscape photography and philosophy. Their soft focus and shallow depth of field encourage contemplation on the imaginative possibilities expressed within the natural environment.

**Matty Byloos** merges his love for literature and interest in documenting how memory functions, as starting points for the creation of bodies of paintings and drawing installations that invoke the human presence within the natural environment.

**Penelope Gottlieb's** paintings showcase a unique synthesis of her modern graphic design background and the vintage botanical renderings of natural scientists. However, her paintings are also unique in their perspective on the traditional floral still life. Stylized flora and fauna are depicted as emanating from a comic book explosion, illustrating what the artist refers to as "the dire state of the planet" as faced with species extinction and the resulting biological and ecological ramifications.

**Tim Hawkinson** is well known for his sculptural creations out of found and manipulated materials that explore the physical connections of our everyday experience and the objects encountered. Over the course of his nearly two-decade career,

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Hawkinson has garnered a reputation as one of America's most imaginative contemporary artists. Using ubiquitous materials the artist crafts intricate works that are simultaneously familiar and surprising.

**Robert Ketchum** works with the Suzhou Embroidery Research Institute to create stunning embroidered pieces based on his photographs. During their twenty-year relationship, Ketchum and the Institute have engaged in an artistic collaboration whereby the embroiderers have developed new techniques in order to capture the essence of Ketchum's photographs.

**Kaoru Mansour** creates paintings out of botanical collage elements on wooden panels. Delicately colored organic forms are covered with twenty to thirty different layers of encaustic, which gives her work a rich and highly textured appearance. Mansour's paintings connect images of plants with abstract mark making. Her delicate markings swirl around and attach to the delicate branches, creating new, otherworldly plant forms that are at once astute with their precision and wonderfully whimsical.

**Naomi Safran-Hon** uses cement, lace, and other materials to create works that push the boundaries of expectation, challenging ideas about art and of politics and how political reality infiltrates personal life. The artist's fascination with cement sprang from the construction of the barrier that is being built in her home country of Israel in order to separate Israelis from Palestinians.

**Andrew Taylor's** paintings address natural themes in a more "elastic" manner. Many of Taylor's paintings call to mind Chinese or Japanese scrolls, with simplified leaves and flowers prominently displayed against bold color gradients. Taylor describes a unifying theme in his pieces as an allusion to "the things we look through when we think we should be looking somewhere else." Overall, Taylor's paintings comment on the elusive nature of the environment around us.

**Timothy Tompkins's** paintings are created with high gloss commercial enamels on aluminum. The artist obtains the reference images for his paintings by photographing the television screen as the information is broadcast. His intent with the series is to explore the use of images as narrative and deconstruct the same narratives by removing them from their original context. The viewer is then free to bring their own associations depending upon their relationship to what is presented.

Heather James Fine Art is located at 172 Center Street, Suite 101, Jackson, WY, 83001. For more information about the gallery and upcoming exhibitions, visit our website, [www.heatherjames.com](http://www.heatherjames.com) or contact Lyndsay McCandless at 307-200-6090 or [lyndsay@heatherjames.com](mailto:lyndsay@heatherjames.com).

Images L-R: Kelly Barrie, *Study for Tree of Ténére* (detail), 2008, Kodak Endura Metallic C-Print, 48 x 42 in. (50 x 44 in. framed), Edition of 10 + 2AP; Tatiana Botton, *Bamboo Abstract I* (detail), photograph with maple edges and non-reflective acrylic, 7 1/2 x 59 7/8 in.; Matty Byloos, *Clearing, Skyward View*, 2006/2007, acrylic and Prismacolor on mahogany panel 30 x 30 x 3 1/2 in.; Tim Hawkinson, *The Log Section* (detail), 1995, string, cardboard and wooden picks, 30 1/2 in. diameter x 10 in.; Penelope Gottlieb, *Melicope obovato*, 2010, mixed media on wood panel, 50 x 40 in.; Robert Glenn Ketchum, *Golden Light in Late Evening* (detail), 2005, random stitch embroidery, silk thread on silk and synthetic blend, 17 1/4 x 23 1/2 in.; Kaoru Mansour, *Iro (mi) #288* (detail), 2010, mixed media on canvas, 48 x 42 in.; Naomi Safran-Hon, *Confiscated Land I*, 2009, cement on red table cloth, 44 x 42 in.; Andrew Taylor, *Outside 2*, 2010, oil on linen, 48 x 48 in.; Timothy Tompkins, *Jungle v.1* (detail), 2009, commercial enamel on aluminum, 48 x 80 in.