

As Above

Shelley Thorstensen at Union Gallery, Wagner College

The Union Gallery of Wagner College presents the work of artist Shelley Thorstensen to coincide with New York City's Print Week. The exhibition, *As Above*, runs from Tuesday November 3rd 2015 to January 15th 2016.

Shelley Thorstensen has expertise in all printmaking techniques, specializing in hand pulled color multi-print media. Her work is part deep personal archive, part printmaking evangelism, woven together in fabric of color, metaphor and commentary. Art critic Edward Sozanski wrote of her work "The ease with which she combines these processes and exploits their individual strengths gives her prints uncommon presence and, more often than not, transcendent beauty".

Shelley Thorstensen states, "My work is a result of the confluence of inner and outer stimuli. It's a result of personal narrative as much as observed affect. It derives as much from experience as it does from answered and unanswered questioning. I think about the connection between the manmade and what we call natural and the extension and overlap of each modality. Sometimes in my work, things are sure footed, sometimes less so. The forms evolve, they turn and I rely on a sense, for which I cannot always find a proper name, to hesitate the turning, to coalesce a given form. The Sufis, grounded in the ecstatic fragility of daily life, call the turning Zikr, the call of the heart, the way of remembering. The hesitation helps me to stay grounded in what is often called the Unified Field. These meditational practices give me the best ability to get at meaning. This is how I ultimately make my way in the world and in my work".

Recent solo shows include: *Field Studies: The Scheme of Things*, University of the Arts (fall 2015), *Since the River Spoke* at the Rose Lehrman Gallery, (2013), *This the Smoke from when the Horses Left* at the Painted Bride (2011), *Counterpoint: The Leap from Vision to Print* at Woodmere Art Museum (2010) and *The Preponderance of Evidence* at The Print Center (2009).

Shelley Thorstensen has an undergraduate degree in Experimental Studies from Syracuse University, School of Visual & Performing Arts, Syracuse, NY, and a graduate degree in Printmaking from the Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia, PA. Her work can be seen at Dolan/Maxwell in Philadelphia, PA. She is the founder of Printmakers Open Forum and teaches printmaking at Tyler School of Art. Her work can be found internationally including Cleveland Art Museum, Kenosha Museum, Museum of Modern Art, Palmer Art Museum, Royal Museum of Art (Antwerp), Woodmere Art Museum.

The exhibition is open Tuesday to Saturday 11am to 4pm, Thursday 11 to 7pm or by appointment. The Union Gallery is located at Wagner College, College Union (Main Floor), One Campus Road, Staten Island, NY 10301. Guests from the ferry terminal may take the Wagner College Shuttle to the Campus.

For more information contact:
Bill Murphy, Gallery Director
bmurphy@wagner.edu, 718-390-3152
Shelley Thorstensen
shelley@printmakersopenforum.org