

DAVID B SMITH GALLERY

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Regan Rosburg: *The Understory*

July 22, 2011 – August 20, 2011

Opening Reception: Friday, July 22, 7 pm – 10 pm

Free and open to the Public. Artist in Attendance.

DENVER – The David B. Smith Gallery is proud to present a new body of work by Regan Rosburg entitled *The Understory*. This term, used to describe the network of life that lives and thrives on the forest floor, connotes a world of minimal sunlight, blocked by the canopy of trees and foliage above, but marked by resilience and adaptation. This complex and alluring body of work, which Rosburg has been developing since 2009, will be on display at the Gallery from July 22nd through August 20th. Please join us for the opening with Regan Rosburg on Friday, July 22nd, from 7:00 pm –10:00 pm.

Rosburg mixes traditional, wildlife illustration with high tech resin and embedded natural materials to convey her messages. The resin allows her to create illusions of depth, atmosphere and light forming a natural world by strategically layering the resin like a diorama, capturing moments in plastic. Inspired by the forests of Northeastern Tennessee where she currently lives, Rosburg's work has taken on a new palate and approach with increased color and complexity. At first glance, these pieces seem to project a romantic version of nature. There are subtle layers of lace, wallpaper, drawings, prints or transfers, blades of grass, birds, berries and insects. But when viewed closely, different objects emerge. Embedded in the layers of resin and paint are a myriad of contradictory images: bones, trash, scorpions and spiders, skeletons and wasps. There are no boundaries – in these works, animals and plants interact, overlap and dissolve into one another as they adapt to the challenges of assuming control over their environment.

In *The Understory*, there is a story within the story, a fantasy under the reality, just as within the resin, one can find embedded objects collected from the forest floor. Here the dichotomy of life and death, beauty and ugliness, and the conflicts between the natural environment and the impact of humans are depicted and presented. Within each work are complex ideas and messages about human society, materialism, interaction with nature and the resilience of each species. These pieces challenge the viewer to understand, to think and to appreciate.

About the Artist

Regan Rosburg grew up near Monument, Colorado and studied art at the University of Colorado in Boulder. After earning her BFA in painting and photography in 2000, she exhibited in group shows and solo exhibitions, and in 2007 was selected as the official artist for the Telluride Bluegrass Festival. She recently moved to Tennessee where the lush forests were the inspiration for this exhibition.

About David B. Smith Gallery

David B. Smith Gallery is Denver's venue for compelling contemporary art. Since its founding in 2007, the Gallery has been committed to presenting intelligent and culturally relevant exhibitions featuring work from some of today's most dynamic artists with growing international reputations. Through participation in leading art fairs and extensive media coverage, David Smith has cultivated a strong regional, national and international collector audience. The Gallery was recently called an "art magnet that never disappoints." *The New York Times* hailed the gallery as offering "an exciting contrast of cutting edge works." In addition to its curatorial program, David B. Smith maintains an active publishing division, which produces limited edition artist prints and monographs.