

Garrison Art Center

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For immediate release:
Saints and Samurai
Panel Paintings by Holly Sumner
May 22 – June 20, 2021

Opening Reception Saturday, May 22, 5-7pm
Covid restrictions permitting

Contact: gallery@garrisonartcenter.org



Medusae of the World, acrylic on wood panel,

Garrison Art Center is pleased to announce *Saints and Samurai*, a solo exhibition of paintings on wood panels by Holly Sumner. This is Ms. Sumner's first solo exhibition in the Riverside Galleries at Garrison Art Center. The exhibition will be on view in the Gillette Gallery from May 22 – June 20, 2021, with an opening reception on Saturday, May 22, from 5-7pm, Covid 19 restrictions permitting.

Saints and Samurai depicts the microscopic world of plankton and radiolaria as larger than life inhabitants of abstract spaces. Holly Sumner became interested in plankton while browsing the scientific libraries in Woods Hole which led to her fascination not only

with the visual beauty of organisms that are invisible to the naked eye, but also with the scientific data that defines them and their environments. Sumner integrates designs of geometric data with organic specimens to create colorful compositions of shape and pattern that banter between positive and negative space. Each painting is a portrait of sorts, with an otherworldly feel to them. Sumner develops individual traits and characteristics for each organism inspiring fictitious names like “Medusae of the World” or “Sam,” as well as matter-of-fact scientific names like “Radiolaria Pterocanium.” Sumner describes how it felt to spend time in her studio with depictions of these organisms all around her: “When the radiolaria were lining the walls of my studio I saw them as my protective radiolarian samurai.”

Another defining feature of this body of work are the wood panels that Sumner creates and uses as substrate, some of which are engaged frames, as in *Medusae of the World*, or hinged together and fully functional in the fashion of Renaissance religious panels that open and close. Like Renaissance panel paintings, Sumner's paintings reveal more information as we go from the closed position to the open view. While the Renaissance panels are rooted in religious beliefs, Sumner's panels are rooted in science. This could be Sumner's way of expressing her reverence for Science, scientific observation, and the all-encompassing mystery and mystical beauty she finds therein.

Holly Sumner has exhibited extensively throughout the New York Metropolitan area as well as many places throughout the United States. She received her BFA from Alfred University, NY and her MFA from the University of Colorado, Boulder. She has taught as an adjunct professor at NYU and the New School, and as a Visiting Instructor at the San Francisco Art Institute. Her work is in the collections of TIAACREF, New York, NY and JP Morgan, NY.

The exhibition will be on view in the Gillette Gallery running concurrent with Deb Lecce's solo exhibition of ceramic sculpture in the Balter Gallery from May 22 - June 20.

For all press inquiries and high-resolution images contact Barbara Smith Gioia, Exhibitions Coordinator, at gallery@garrisonartcenter.org

Riverside Galleries at Garrison Art Center are open Tuesday-Sunday 10am-5pm, and located on the banks of the Hudson River, next door to the Metro-North Hudson Line, Garrison stop, one hour from Grand Central. For more information about exhibitions and other programs, please visit our website www.garrisonartcenter.org or call 845.424.3960. Please join in the conversation with Garrison Art Center via Instagram @GarrisonArtCenter