

Debra Weisberg is a sculptor of expansion and possibilities. Her work deals with the theme of growth and change. Nature is a metaphor for many of her works in sculpture and drawing. She explores new materials and new techniques to realize her concepts and actualize her imagination.

Her recent works have been wall reliefs combining paper, tape, polymer, fiberglass and hydrostone. Her palette is mainly in black and white, seemingly growing out of the wall in wild abandon. Her mode could be entitled "chaos controlled." Many of her pieces expand out from a central core reaching into space with great energy.

As the artist says, "My work is a metaphoric investigation of the order in the disequilibrium of nature, of the beauty and tranquility within the frenzy of matter coming apart. While the work remains abstract, it alludes to something you think you have seen in the physical world but in fact, have not.... I try to capture the moment when the shape is morphing or shifting into another, struggling to hold the center still when the force of nature proves too great."

Her recent work has included fractured wall reliefs, glow drawings, and a group of constructed drawings that reach out from their wall moorings to assume new three dimensional forms. In her fractured wall reliefs Weisberg builds a new wall surface that shows broken and cracked fissures, often studded with glass shards. In these works she mines decay and destruction but also a process of new birth and metamorphosis.

Her Glow Drawings, shown at the Danforth Museum in 2009, are constructed of torn tape with luminescent powder which takes on a new presence in the absence of light, eerie, exhilarating and magical. Her larger black and white Constricted Drawings employ layered tape rather than traditional drawing materials in a gestural mode.

Weisberg usually works in series in which a theme or process is presented in many variations, capturing the possibilities of the medium or concept. Her work may express itself in wall reliefs as large twelve feet high and nine feet across or as small as nine inches by 5 ½ inches. What matters to the artist is exploring and expanding a new motif in various manifestations and changes.

Her latest work pushes out from the wall, moving from the "Constructed Drawings" into reliefs in space. They reverberate from their inner force and shattered equilibrium. Worked from inside out, expanding from the eye of the storm the "push and pull" becomes a stretch and grow. In them the organic and elegant combine in a combustible vibrant whole, a new chapter in Weisberg's perception and work.

Her career includes awards from the Somerville Arts Council and a drawing fellowship from Massachusetts Cultural Council as well as residencies at the MacDowell and the Can Serrat Residence program in Spain among others. Weisberg's works are in numerous collections such as the Sonesta Hotel, General Hardware Manufacturing Company in NYC, Simmons College and Meditech. She has also done private commissions for Mass Power and Electric and in private homes. Weisberg has exhibited nationally: Art in General in NYC, the DeCordova Museum, Danforth Museum, Mills Gallery and Rose Museum in the Boston area and East Hampton Center for Contemporary Art. Her forty-foot high installation at the DeCordova Museum entitled, '(Sub) Surface' won a prize for best museum installation from the Boston Art Critics Association.

Weisberg is a college instructor at Boston College and New England School of Art and Design at Suffolk University. A graduate of Temple University Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia, she currently resides at Brickbottom Artist Building in Somerville and she teaches at Boston College and the New England School of Art and Design at Suffolk University.

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