



Abstract Gestation: LA to West Texas

April 4 – 29, 2011

Abstract Gestation: LA to West Texas, paintings and drawings by mother and daughter artists Suzan Cook and Aimée Rhodes Cook, opens at the Fort Worth Community Arts Center on April 4th, with an opening reception for the artists on April 8th from 6 to 9 pm. The exhibition remains open through April 29th, 2011.

Abstract Gestation is the first exhibition of an ongoing artistic dialogue between the mother and daughter. They create works in Los Angeles and West Texas, exploring similar concepts, sharing designs and often working into each other's pieces, creating a dynamic body of experimental paintings and drawings.

In this series, both artists explore what emerges from the tranquil night. For Suzan, moody constellations, celestial shapes and spatial shades come alive on canvas with vivid and muted colors alike. Using both linear elements and speckles and spots of bright color, the images are astronomical maps with a sometimes figurative quality. Through her abstract starry skies, ethereal nightscapes and floating figures, Suzan captures and honors the cosmos that blankets us each night.

By contrast, Aimée creates abstract, gestural watercolors inspired by images of her children sleeping. Large format pictures, which are drawn with watercolor sticks and gouache, have a spontaneous quality, leaving a clear trace of the hand for an immediate and temporal feel. Abstractions of these large drawings are then replicated and digitally printed onto fabric and wood. Furthermore, the abstracted, smaller printed pieces are encased in fluorescent Plexiglas. The resulting images are three dimensional sculptures that inhabit an eerie space between quietly asleep and vibrantly alive.

The harmony in these works is where the magic lies, and by bringing them together *Abstract Gestation* gives the viewer a window into the enigmatic symmetry between the two artists. From conception to execution and beyond, the two artists' work is intertwined. In some instances, the mother and daughter swap and finish each other's pieces in a process they call "stops and starts." Furthermore, they share the ideology that paintings are living pieces and never done. These works are a process, a thought, the seed to sow for the next composition. The dynamic nature of this approach to art-making leads to an ever-evolving body of work; a relationship constantly reaching for its true shape, yet never settling in one form.