

SQUEAK CARNWATH

A NEW RELEASE FROM PAULSON PRESS

Paulson Press in Berkeley, California is pleased to announce the release of five new color etchings by Bay Area painter Squeak Carnwath. Completed in June of this year, these print editions will be available for release September 1997.

Well-established as a printmaker, Carnwath brought a decided mastery to her first project with Paulson Press. These new prints record her working processes of observing, absorbing and expressing, in playful and seductive terms, the intricacies of human experience. This, combined with the improvisation of printmaking, resulted in an exciting group of prints that bring familiar content to different resolutions.

Carnwath introduces a new compositional element in three of the prints, Psych 101, Intelligence of a Three Year Old, and Different Paths. She arrived at the studio with a book of patterns found in Islamic textiles and art. She incorporated this interest in pattern as an overall visual texture by combining it with objects and images familiar to her. A bold, fluid pattern of curls and arabesques reappears in varying degrees of subtlety within each of the three prints to create optical treasure troves.

In Psych 101 the pattern is printed in a sage green and covers most of the image area. Underneath this rich field, a wide apricot-colored border surrounds a central off-white square of gampi paper adhered by chine colle. Inside the square are two figures, a boy and a girl, taken from a reproduction of an original 1950s drawing of Dick and Jane that she discovered in a newspaper. Carnwath's recognizable hand-written words reveal them as "sister" and "brother." Other details such as text asking "What is your birth order?" further animate the lively dialogue about sibling relationships.

Carnwath often relies on combinations of images to trigger associations. In Different Paths, she breaks up the brilliant cerulean blue surface with various images that are visually connected by a dotted black line: a man in red running shorts, a Buddha image, a human brain, a hat, two hand prints. During printing, the last plate offset just enough of the solid blue ink to unveil the pattern that lies beneath. Carnwath was able to achieve a beautiful visual texture from this offset that is unique to printmaking.

The three larger prints particularly demonstrate the stream of consciousness that informs Carnwath's work. The Dick and Jane characters again make an appearance in Intelligence of a Three Year Old as glowing apparitions that radiate from the midnight blue background. Other areas of the image where she sanded the plate have a similar misty or dreamlike quality that simultaneously reveals and obscures hidden images and objects. She draws us into the infinite ground until we discover that behind the alluring surface lies a faint version of the recurring pattern.

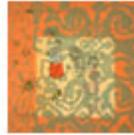
While the larger prints offer in-depth dialogues, the two smallest prints, 360 Degrees and Bugs, represent a cluster of succinct yet profound commentary. Carnwath breaks up the textured field of color that dominates the print Bugs with a slightly lighter rectangular section that frames a variety of insects. She reveals a bit of her off-beat humor in the caption "Volunteer Bug Collection." 360 Degrees features the world partially obscured by a red, irregularly drawn grid of numbered boxes. Subtle white marks dot the mint green background like constellations. Carnwath underscores her wonder at our world by inscribing "This is not the world I was born into."

In each of the prints, Carnwath used intaglio techniques such as sugarlift aquatint, hardground and softground, that allowed her to draw directly on the plates. As in all of her work, it is her handling of material that infuses the work with emotion and meaning. Her familiar listing of objects, her incorporation of a scrawled, graffiti-like text, and the counting of life's infinite parts has been described as a "hieroglyphic language to be deciphered slowly." The slow process of discovery through observation that is recorded in these images

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Psych 101, 1997
Soapground and sugarlift aquatints with hardground and chine collé
Somerset white paper
Image size 15" x 15"
Paper size 23 3/4" x 22 1/2"
Edition of 30



Different Paths, 1997
Sugarlift, spitbite and soapground aquatints with hardground and softground
Somerset white paper
Image size 20" x 20"
Paper size 30" x 29"
Edition of 30



Intelligence of a Three-Year Old, 1997
Sugarlift and soapground aquatints with hardground, scrape and burnish
Somerset textured paper
Image size 24" x 24"
Paper size 34" x 31"
Edition of 30



Bugs, 1997
Soapground, sugarlift and spitbite aquatints with hardground and softground
Somerset textured paper
Image size 10" x 10"
Paper size 19" x 18"
Edition of 40



360 Degrees, 1997
Sugarlift and spitbite aquatints with hardground and softground
Somerset soft white paper
Image size 10" x 10"
Paper size 19" x 18"
Edition of 40

invites us into her thoughtful exploration of established ideas.

A major survey of Squeak Carnwath's work was published by Chronicle Books in 1996: *Squeak Carnwath: Lists, Observations & Counting*. Her work has garnered national attention. She is represented by the John Berggruen Gallery in San Francisco and at the Byron Cohen Gallery in Kansas City, MO and has exhibited at numerous institutions such as The Museum of Contemporary Art, Lake Worth, FL; The Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, VA; the Oakland Museum, CA; and the Contemporary Museum in Honolulu, HI. She currently teaches at the University of California at Berkeley. Carnwath has also been the recipient of many awards and grants including a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1994.

For more information about these prints, please contact Paulson Press at 510.559.2088. Prices and availability are subject to change without notice.