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Glass, Ceramics & Wood*

The tales we tell together

In 2013 the artists in the group Women Painting Women created a call to action for galleries to host exhibitions dedicated to female artists painting female subjects. RJD Gallery was one of several galleries to present a show on the theme. October 10 to November 8, the Sag Harbor, New York, gallery will host its third Women Painting Women exhibition, titled *Women Painting Women: The Tales We Tell Together*.

For 2015, the gallery will showcase work by Nancy Boren, Rebekah Bynum, Mary Chiaramonte, Candice Chovanec, Yana Movchan, Sylvia Nitti, Isabel Olivares, Rebecca Tait, and Pamela Wilson.

“Creating art is an opportunity to reflect on the beauty and themes of the past—a chance to be included in a conversation that began hundreds of years ago,” says Chovanec. “I feel a connection through time by continuing the ideas and methods of the artists that came before me. This piece [*Chloris and Flora, Against the Wind*] is a tribute to Botticelli’s *Primavera* where he included the myth of the wind god and the nymph Chloris that he transformed into Flora, the goddess of spring—a theme that suggests rebirth, growth and



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femininity. The beauty of this painting lies in the mystery of Botticelli’s intentions and subtle inspirations. I included small gems of mystery in the same way, with the hope of slowing the viewer down so they can continue to have something to enjoy each time they view my work.”

Chloris and Flora, Against the Wind depicts two young women—twins, who are friends with the artist—as they reach a crossroads in their lives. “They are entering womanhood and finding their place in the world. They have spent their lives together as sisters, but are entering a time when they will have to strike out on their own and start a separate life away from the other,” explains Chovanec. “This painting is a tribute not only to *Primavera*, but also to these women who are entering a new stage in their life.”

In the painting *Embrace*, Movchan depicts a young woman with butterflies in her hair and a small monkey atop her shoulder. “My language is art. If I were a writer, I would use words,” says Movchan. “Because I am a painter, my language

is paint and colors. Whatever is in my conscious and subconscious goes through my hands and onto the canvas.”

Olivares’ work *Autumn* is from her series of works *Don’t Trust Beauty* “as a rebellion against the contemporary standards of beauty where honesty is stigmatized and sometimes sacrificed in the pursuit of perfection.”

Autumn, as Olivares explains, “represents a dialogue with the future or present self in the autumn of life. There might be broken promises or dreams left behind, expectations not fulfilled as imagined during younger years. It is said that a photograph steals a moment in time, and yet can be a window that unlocks all the memories that bring back the battles that makes us whom we became or failed to become.”

Another work in the show is Wilson’s *She Sold the Wish*, which developed through contemplation of the theme and from a photo shoot. Wilson shares, “Women Painting Women is unto itself a very interesting concept. When I started to



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1
Isabel Olivares,
Autumn, oil on
wood panel,
20 x 28"

2
Pamela Wilson,
She Sold the Wish,
oil on canvas,
36 x 36"

3
Candice Chovanec,
Chloris and Flora,
Against the Wind,
oil on panel,
24 x 36"

4
Yana Movchan,
Embrace, oil on
linen, 20 x 16"



4

ponder the idea of women contemplating other women in such a way, I thought there must be so much to learn from this. We have been contemplating each other for eternity, of course, and the intricacies of the woman-to-woman relationship in all its forms allows us much room to study, for fun, for art.

"When I consider the idea that young girls ponder women too, and probably more than we realize, I wonder what they make of the whole ordeal," continues the artist. "How they see the world, and who they become, much has to do with the female examples given to them, I think we might all agree. [*She Sold the Wish*] was inspired by those thoughts."

She Sold the Wish is a monochromatic painting featuring a young girl and her doll at a rail yard in Utah. "I love a little girl dressing up, planning her fantastic future with precision, and trying on personalities to give us a peek at her version of adulthood," Wilson says. "This painting started like that, only in a rail yard in Utah—quite unprepared, it seemed, for what we decided to do. And then there was so much more than the sum of all the parts. Given an incomplete box of goodies for her trip, how will a young girl cope?" ●