

Rebecca Hamm

*"They hear. They all hear
The speaking of the tree.
Today, the first and last of every tree
Speaks to humankind. Come to me, here beside the river.
Plant yourself beside me, here beside the river.
Each of you, descendant of some passed on
Traveller, has been paid for."*

A selection from "On the Pulse of Morning" by Maya Angelou

Rebecca Hamm's work presents points where nature overcomes and reclaims --gradually or dramatically-- human constructs. She creates energetic, abstracted visions that overflow with color and hidden life. At a distance, the stream emerges and the rock forms in a constant state of flux. The striking beauty of nature is simultaneously laced with the aching reply to devastation. It is at once mysterious and comforting; fascinating and awe striking; terrifying and instructive.

In Hamm's paintings, a momentary glimpse into the wild places around us becomes a glimmering composition honoring unsettling beauty and evidence of transformation. Layered hues and shifting images hint at the thin veil of paper and paint while provoking a view into a deeper contemplation.

Where Hamm's painting process leads is mysterious and unpredictable. These works are not intended to be a representation or a record, yet they shimmer as memorials to the experiential.

A Southern California native, Rebecca Hamm received her B.A. from California Polytechnic University, Pomona and her M.F.A. from the Claremont Graduate University. She shows her artwork throughout the region including recent solo and selected exhibitions at Los Angeles City College, the Claremont Museum of Art, the Ontario Museum of Art and History, the Huntington Beach Art Center, the Carnegie Art Museum in Oxnard and the University of Houston, Texas.

She has taught a wide variety of fine art and design courses at three local universities. Her writings on Creativity and Inclusive Arts have been published internationally and she has been invited to speak for many groups and organizations both locally and nationally. She was a featured presenter for a TedX program and was honored by Senator Carol Liu as "Woman of the Year" for 2015 in the 25th senatorial district of California.

In 1990 Hamm was introduced to the artists who experience different abilities and were working with First Street Gallery and the progressive studios of the Tierra del Sol Foundation. She joined in as a guest artists and now, as Director of Arts, she leads the progressive studio programs with ambitious exhibition schedules highlighting the important work of hundreds of artists who have been involved with the inclusive studios. Currently, her team of art professionals provide innovative and effective opportunities for more than 100 artists who are advancing their own professional careers in the arts.

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September, 2019