

Press Release - June 2023

MELISSA MURRAY

Once Met By Morning Dew

August 5 - September 17 2023

Opening Reception August 5, 2pm - 6pm

Hawk + Hive, Andes NY 13731



Bear, falcon, plum: these are a few of the innumerable figures that appear in Melissa Murray's new body of work. The creatures, plants, objects and textures appearing in the paintings that compose *Once Met By Morning Dew* are witnessed by Murray in their singularity, brought into intentional spatial relationship with one another. At their most elemental level, Murray's paintings honor the private and intimate selfhood of her subjects, invoking the lives of these beings as conduits for transformation. At the same time, the paintings are documents of meditative discovery, evidence of the artist's inner transformation through time.

[View the Gallery of Works HERE](#)

Created over the course of a year at her studio in the Catskill mountains, Murray describes the work in *Once Met By Morning Dew* as “seasonal painting.” The Catskills are characterized by numerous ecosystems, and the species that make up those systems as the seasons shift are a primary source of material for Murray. Looking at the work in this series, one sees, for instance, spring dandelion blossoms, the purple asters of autumn, milk snakes, moths, summer ferns and lilies, the dance of wild turkeys, the pink-green gleam coming through a brown trout’s spots. Murray engages with these species as they appear in the world she inhabits, making each painting a portrait of a very specific moment in the year. Whether familiar with these elements or not, viewers are invited to make their own meaning from these compositions; these elements constitute a shared language, a vocabulary of things that speak to our collective species-experience.



While many of the symbols Murray uses are drawn from her immersion in the natural world, others come from her quotidian life—patterned fabrics, tools, candles, vessels, heads of garlic. Even though Murray’s creatures and objects are collected from her life, there’s a greater metaphysical force at play. The paintings’ symbolic language—their overarching system of object, pattern, color and shape—is something that arrives for Murray by way of intuition. The artist finds her vocabulary of images through meditation and dream, noting that the worlds she paints act the way a dream acts—that is, outside of the rationality that defines conscious, waking life. (Full catalogue essay by Iris Cushing and artist statement [HERE](#))

Melissa Murray has exhibited in the US and internationally, including Galerie SAS in Montreal, A.I.R. Gallery, Causey Contemporary, Lesley Heller Workspace, Nelson Macker Fine Art, Transmitter Gallery, Garis and Hahn and The Children’s Museum of the Arts, Hawk and Hive, Wassaic Project, Art Port Kingston in NY and Howe Gallery at Kean University in New Jersey, Heaven Gallery in Chicago, Every Woman Biennial, The Spring Break and Pulse Art Fairs in New York.

Murray is amongst the artists included in the publication *50 Contemporary Women Artists*. Notable press and reviews by *Architectural Digest*, *Thalia Magazine*, *The Village Voice*, *The Montreal Gazette*, *L Magazine*, *Wild Magazine*, *Blouin Artinfo*, *Studio Visit Magazine*, *Art Fag City*, *Hyperallergic*, *Time Out*, *Vellum Magazine* *Mother Maker Podcast*, *ArtKill* and *Juxtapoz Magazine*. Murray’s work was recently included in a collaboration with the *Orchestra of St Lukes* in a virtual release of her paintings alongside the orchestral works of Eleanor Alberga, as well as a group exhibition with the *London Art Fair*. She has also recently presented at *Volta NYC* and has been featured in *ArtMaze Mag* under the curation of Hesse Flatow.

Hawk + Hive is a small but beautifully formed gallery in the Western Catskills, showing artwork by exceptional emerging and established artists. Exhibitions are staged every six weeks throughout the year. For further information please contact Jayne Parker jayne@hawkandhive.com 917-544-9071 or visit www.hawkandhive.com