

Peggy Preheim : Archipelago

January 8 – February 14, 2015 Gallery 2

Opening Reception: January 8, 2015; 6-8pm

E/I Saturday Discussion: January 17, 2015; 11am The artist in conversation with Gregory Volk art critic, freelance curator, and professor at Virginia Commonwealth University; and Marilyn Kushner Curator and Head, Department of Prints, Photographs, and Architectural Collections at the New York Historical Society

For immediate release

Tanya Bonakdar Gallery is pleased to present Peggy Preheim's twelfth solo exhibition with the gallery. Entitled Archipelago, this group of works presents the delicate drawings for which Preheim is best known in concert with the introduction of pressed floral elements in her work. These leaves, grasses and flowers inform the geometry of Preheim's compositions and engage the artist's drawings with thematic links to the natural world coupled with her ongoing interest in transformative processes and the repeated sequential nature of human experience and time.

The title of the exhibition, Archipelago, refers to a chain or cluster of islands with a significant portion of landscape under water and thus out of sight. As in Preheim's drawings, what is seen of an archipelago from above are geographic nodes emerging from a vast expanse, with an intricate network of connections and references beneath. In these works by Preheim, the individual leaves and flowers are sometimes linked, each element's position leading the eye through the compositional field. Alternately, the floral elements can be layered or arranged in a manner that gives shape to negative space and creates environments for the artist's exquisite pencil drawings that are inspired by found photographs.

The interconnected nature of Preheim's works extends beyond their formal elements to also include references to art and cultural history as well as phenomena of the natural world. In *Femme de Chambre*, a figure dressed in a wedding gown, and holding a knife, stands in the well of a three lobed leaf from the grape family. Weapon in hand, she carves through space just as the razor in Luis Bunuel's *Un chien andalou* cuts through the iris of an eyeball. Similarly, the radiating filaments of squirrel's hair in *Omen* hint at the iris of an eye as well. One of the initial pieces made for this series of work, the diptych *49 Degrees* touches on the transformational power of the seasons, in which fall as the harbinger of winter marks a panoply of change: from our mode of dress, to the color of the landscape and (when read metaphorically) a shift in the cycle of life. As a counterpoint, the implied coming winter snow is explicitly portrayed in the heavy clustering of snow on the evergreen in the drawing entitled *Masque*. In the works *Cardinal Sign* and *Fleur-de-lis*, flame-like colors and shapes allude to fire, whose aftermath could render the ashes used in other works such as *Torus*, *Elysium* and *Middle Man*. For Preheim, works in the series connect with Joseph Beuys' compositions with dried leaves and flowers on paper, illustrative of Beuys' long-term interest in nature and the environment.

The incorporation of natural elements directly onto the surface of the paper highlights and contrasts the relationship between photosynthesis in plants and Preheim's photographic style of drawing. As such, Preheim views these works as related to her continued exploration of "the process of transformation, both inner and outer."

Peggy Preheim lives and works in New York. Her works on paper were recently featured in a group exhibition at the Drawing Center, New York. In 2008 Preheim was the subject of a one-person exhibition at the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum in Ridgefield, Connecticut, entitled *Little Black Book*, which traveled between 2008-2010 to the Philbrook Museum of Art, Tulsa, Oklahoma and to the Herbert F. Johnson Museum, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. A hardcover catalog was published in conjunction with the exhibition. Other notable exhibitions include *Quiet Accord*, a two-person presentation with Paul Chiappe at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Wisconsin (2012), *New Directions in American Drawing*, a group show that opened at The Columbus Museum in Georgia in 2007 and traveled to the Telfair Museum in Savannah and the Knoxville Museum of Art in Tennessee through 2008, and *Transitional Objects: Contemporary Still Life*, a 2006 group show at the Neuberger Museum in New York. Preheim's work is included in the collections of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY, Brooklyn Museum of Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX, The Museum of Modern Art, NY, and the Whitney Museum of American Art, among others.

Peggy PREHEIM
Archipelago
January 8 – February 14, 2015

Upstairs Galleries



Pierrot Lunaire
2014
mixed media
31 1/4 x 24 3/4 inches 79.4 x 62.9 cm
(framed)
signed and dated on lower right recto
(TBG 16050)



femme de chambre
2013
mixed media
20 5/8 x 16 5/8 inches; 52.4 x 42.2 cm
(framed)
signed and dated on lower right recto
(TBG 16038)



Venus in Capricorn
2014
mixed media
20 5/8 x 16 5/8 inches; 52.4 x 42.2 cm
(framed)
signed and dated on lower right recto
(TBG 16042)



Cardinal Sign
2013
mixed media
20 5/8 x 16 5/8 inches; 52.4 x 42.2 cm
(framed)
(TBG 16032)



Rose Hands
2013
mixed media
20 5/8 x 16 5/8 inches; 52.4 x 42.2 cm
(framed)
(TBG 16037)



Memento Mori
2014
mixed media
20 5/8 x 16 5/8 inches; 52.4 x 42.2 cm
(framed)
signed and dated on lower right recto
(TBG 16043)



Masque
2014
mixed media
20 5/8 x 16 5/8 inches; 52.4 x 42.2 cm
(framed)
unsigned
(TBG 16033)



Cloud
2013
mixed media
20 5/8 x 16 5/8 inches; 52.4 x 42.2 cm
(framed)
signed and dated on lower right recto
(TBG 16034)



49 Degrees
2012-2013
mixed media
2 Panels each;
14 5/8 x 18 3/4 inches; 37.1 x 47.6 cm
(framed)
both panels signed and dated on lower right recto
(TBG 16052)



Omen
2014
mixed media
20 5/8 x 16 5/8 inches; 52.4 x 42.2 cm
(framed)
signed and dated on lower right recto
(TBG 16047)



Iris
2014
mixed media
20 5/8 x 16 5/8 inches; 52.4 x 42.2 cm
(framed)
signed and dated on lower right recto
(TBG 16110)



Styx
2014
mixed media
20 5/8 x 16 5/8 inches; 52.4 x 42.2 cm
(framed)
signed and dated on lower right recto
(TBG 16109)



X-spell
2014
stainless steel, wood and antique gold leaf frame
32 7/8 x 27 7/8 x 5 inches; 83.5 x 70.8 x 12.7
cm (framed)
(TBG 16156)



Blue Archipelago
2013
mixed media
20 5/8 x 16 5/8 inches; 52.4 x 42.2 cm
(framed)
signed and dated on lower right recto
(TBG 16049)



Fleur-de-lis
2013
mixed media
20 5/8 x 16 5/8 inches; 52.4 x 42.2 cm
(framed)
signed and dated on lower right recto
(TBG 16041)



Untitled 1
2013
mixed media
18 3/4 x 14 5/8 inches; 47.6 x 37.1 cm
(framed)
signed and dated on lower right recto
(TBG 16054)



Stairway
2013
mixed media
18 3/4 x 14 5/8 inches; 47.6 x 37.1 cm
(framed)
signed and dated on lower right recto
(TBG 16053)



Untitled 2
2013
mixed media
18 3/4 x 14 5/8 inches; 47.6 x 37.1 cm
(framed)
signed and dated on lower right recto
(TBG 16055)



Lions Tooth
2013
mixed media
20 5/8 x 16 5/8 inches; 52.4 x 42.2 cm
(framed)
signed and dated on lower right recto
(TBG 16044)



Linden Tree
2013
mixed media
20 5/8 x 16 5/8 inches; 52.4 x 42.2 cm
(framed)
(TBG 16046)



Penrose
2014
mixed media
20 5/8 x 16 5/8 inches; 52.4 x 42.2 cm
(framed)
signed and dated on lower right recto
(TBG 16036)



Middle Man
2014
mixed media
20 5/8 x 16 5/8 inches; 52.4 x 42.2 cm
(framed)
signed and dated on lower right recto
(TBG 16048)



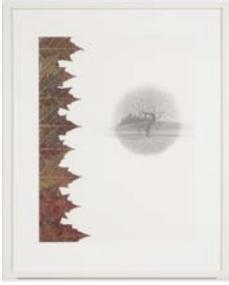
Torus
2014
mixed media
20 5/8 x 16 5/8 inches; 52.4 x 42.2 cm
(framed)
signed and dated on lower right recto
(TBG 16035)



Elysium
2014
mixed media
16 5/8 x 20 5/8 inches; 42.2 x 52.4 cm
(framed)
signed and dated on lower right recto
(TBG 16051)



Beth
2014
antique table, glass hurricane, antique child's dress, birch limbs and white oak leaves
61 x 51 x 34 inches; 154.9 x 129.5 x 86.4 cm
(overall)
34 x 22 x 21 inches; 86.4 x 55.9 x 53.3 cm
(sculpture)
27 1/8 x 30 1/4 x 19 3/4 inches; 68.9 x 76.8 x 50.2 cm [table]
51 x 34 inches; 129.5 x 86.4 cm [leaves]
(TBG 16153)



Chromosome
2013
mixed media
20 5/8 x 16 5/8 inches; 52.4 x 42.2 cm
(framed)
signed and dated on lower right recto
(TBG 16039)



Howl
2013
mixed media
20 5/8 x 16 5/8 inches; 52.4 x 42.2 cm
(framed)
signed and dated on lower left recto
(TBG 16040)



Nest
2014
wasp nest
21 1/2 x 51 1/2 x 35 inches; 54.6 x 130.8 x 88.9 cm
(TBG 16154)



Isle
2014
stainless steel and lead
10 7/8 x 8 7/8 inches; 27.6 x 22.5 cm (framed)
(TBG 16155)