

Robin Jones

Blue Rain Gallery, October 30-November 13



Wings of Desire, oil and gold leaf and India ink on aluminum panel, 30 x 40.

FOR HER FIFTH SOLO show at Blue Rain Gallery in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Robin Jones chose the title *Wild Love* in homage to one of her role models. “The overarching idea of this body of work is ‘wild love,’ coined by Joanna Macy, a Buddhist, activist and author who at age 95 passed away a year ago [in July],” says Jones. “Joanna Macy was the mother of the Deep Ecology movement and talked about her deep love for the

planet and deep sorrow about what she saw happening with the climate crisis that affects all of us.”

Jones emphasized that her art traces some of its influence from Macy’s teachings in *The Work That Reconnects*. She elaborates, “That’s what inspired me: our relationship as humans to the natural world, finding those connections.”

The artist finds the connections in her body of work, where she depicts dynamic,

multicultural girls pictured with flora or fauna: ravens, dragonflies, salmon and the orcas she often witnessed from her home on an island off the coast of Seattle.

For *Wild Love*, Jones will show nine new figurative works that continue her process of painting in oils on aluminum panels and incorporating gold leaf. “The gold leaf goes down first. It’s very delicate and can’t be moved,” says Jones.

She continues, “I always loved the



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT

Make Me A Willow Cabin At Your Gate, oil and gold leaf on aluminum panel, 18 x 24.

Tilikum in Iceland, oil and gold leaf and India ink on aluminum panel, 30 x 36.

In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts, oil and gold leaf and India ink on aluminum panel, 30 x 24.

Italian Renaissance Madonna and Child paintings with gold leaf. I did a lot of research and a lot of trial and error over the years. I've used different metal leaf: silver, copper, white gold. I love the way the light moves on the gold leaf. Depending on where you are in the room, the light shifts on the painting and even if it's semi-dark, the gold leaf still stands out."

Jones anchors her work in realism while also including an illustrative aspect to each painting. The combination lends a mythical appeal to the portraits. "I love figurative realism so there's always that element, but this body of work used more line drawings in combination," she says. "I aesthetically experimented for this show."

Jones gives her paintings powerful, poetic titles. This exhibit will include *IN THE REALM OF HUNGRY GHOSTS* and, from Shakespeare, *MAKE ME A WILLOW CABIN AT YOUR GATE*.

The artist was drawn to girls as subject matter after witnessing Greta Thunberg, the young environmental activist. "I started focusing on painting young girls when Greta started protesting. I was so

inspired by her fearlessly holding people to account and fiercely speaking truth to power," says Jones.

"Women have always been at the forefront of environmental protection and animal rights movements," she adds, and continues, "The girls represent humans around the world. Diversity is really important to me. I'm not painting an exact likeness of my models. I alter them a bit."

And despite the gravity of her political concerns, the artist also is lighthearted about her art, stating, "What I want to show is the joy of these girls in the natural world, the interconnectedness."

Jones will connect with collectors and gallery-goers at her opening reception on Friday, October 30, from 5 to 7 p.m. The show remains on view through November 13. —Colleen Smith

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