

GALLERY **AT** 14 MAPLE

Presents

Capturing **NATURE**



Capturing NATURE

Man's fascination with nature is an ancient story. The decorated walls of over 340 caves in Spain and France are testimony to prehistoric man's artistic abilities and sensitivities. So refined are some of the depictions of animals, it is hard to believe that they are between 25,000 to 40,000 years old. These images can be examined on many levels: archeologically, artistically, chemically, historically, anatomically, biologically and botanically, or simply as an enduring statement from a people now gone. But, it is the very act of an artist interrupting, then rendering an image directly from nature—capturing nature—that is at the heart of this exhibition. Man has always forged the strongest of bonds with the forces of, and the beauty within, nature. The mysterious attraction of the artist to his/her surroundings is what we explore in *Capturing Nature*.

Natalia Margulis is an internationally celebrated fiber artist whose work is not easily categorized. She uses a needle and thread to create embroideries of sublime beauty. She produces her time-laborious pieces like the monastic scribes of the early Renaissance who were so focused and so close to their work, creating exquisite illuminations whose jewel-like colors literally glow. Natalia is that modern-day scribe whose quill is a needle and whose ink, paint and gold leaf is the thread she custom-dyes. Her relatively small works, which take from two months to three years to complete, share the same perfection as those 600 year-old illuminated manuscripts, except her images reveal her deep love affair with nature. The textures she achieves remind me of elegant impasto painting. The bark of a tree, a rippled fungus glowing orange, the detritus of rotting leaves on the stony soil and the reflection of tree trunks in a stagnant pond demonstrate her extraordinary ability to translate nature onto her unique palette. She is an uncompromising perfectionist whose broad vision is not sacrificed to the minutiae of her craft. One of Natalia's favorite Russian poets, Mikhail Lermontov, may have read her mind when he said, "Anyone who has chanced like me to roam through desolate mountains and studied at length their fantastic shapes and drunk the invigorating air of their valleys can understand why I wish to describe and depict these magic scenes for others."

Upon seeing **Joseph Losavio**'s work for the first time, I was struck by its freshness. Although he admits to being inspired by a number of Eastern and Western masters, his work is not derivative of others'. His dreamy and haunting landscapes draw the viewer into his world. He says his images capture "earthly desire and spiritual transcendence, realism and abstraction." The bold shapes and colors in his oils and multimedia scenes evoke an irresistible sensuality—a temptation reminiscent of Odysseus and the Sirens. These two-dimensional pieces have three-dimensional attitude. A short "look" becomes a long stare as you are drawn into the depth of each landscape. Perhaps it is because these canvases are not merely scenes conjured in Joe's mind but rather each, a record of this visionary's journey—a painterly travelogue. His belief system and life philosophy are as layered and nuanced as is his work. Within his collection of cerebellar thought; he has included Jungian psychology, Sufism, Chinese and Japanese artistic tradition, American Modernist and Abstract Expressionist movements, spirituality and too many more items to fit neatly into an exhibition vitrine. Further, he has connected and molded this seemingly random assemblage of thoughts and ideas into a cohesive, complex philosophy. The wonder of it all is that he has laid it out in front of us so that we too can enjoy his world. His rich palette and exotic treatment of his subject is often suffused in the mysticism that so fascinates him and that he has embraced in his life.

Dick Eger, Curator

Joseph Losavio

I am a painter, working in the Visionary art tradition, who enjoys combining media (oil, collage elements and, at times, sculptural materials) to explore my personal concept of creation myth. Celebrating the Sufi mystical belief that Soul is the root of the manifest world, I employ landscape as metaphor for the self-reflective universe or a meeting place of Lover and Beloved.

Inspired by my love of Jungian psychology, comparative religions, Chinese and Japanese *literati* artistic traditions, American Modernist and Abstract Expressionist art movements, the images on my canvases vacillate between earthly desire and spiritual transcendence, realism and abstraction. I am concerned equally with transcribing the “force” that shapes creation as well as the forms themselves. I seek to celebrate creation as a magnificent, guiltless dialectic present in form and particular as well as unified whole. As a result, I delight in the process of juxtaposing contrasting elements (spatial relationships, color, value, pattern, abstract and realist content) to create interest, surprise and tension. I also enjoy pairing illusionistic painted passages with flattened decorative areas within the same work of art to highlight vision as a layered, textural, associative experience informed by relationships.

Each painting is begun without any preconceived sketches or notions, with only the expectation that each mark will inform the next and that the journey will proceed on its own terms, metaphorically taking on unexpected passengers and following various detours. In the end, the subject of each work becomes the process or journey itself. I view myself as a modern pilgrim or itinerant dervish who shares the view of the Italian film director, Federico Fellini, “the visionary is the true realist.”

Joseph Losavio



*All Healer, Yet All Wounds, All Light,
Yet All Shadows Forsaken*

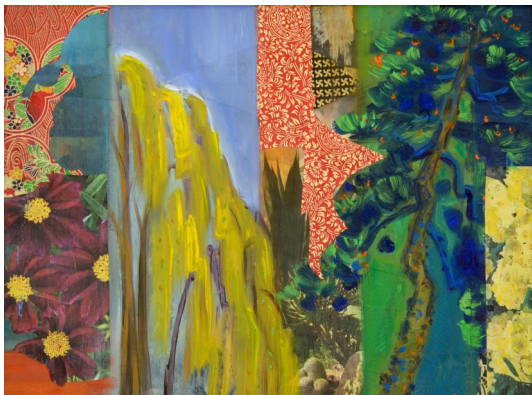
2013

Oil on canvas

24" x 48"

Collection of the Artist

\$2,400



*And For Our Sweet Encounter Tear The
Robe*

2012

Oil and collage on canvas

9" x 12"

Collection of the Artist

\$500



Atop An Underwood

2005

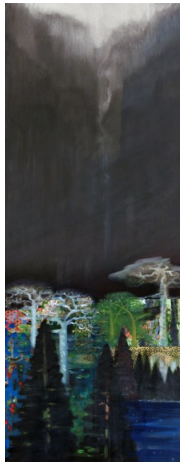
Oil on Canvas

25: x 50"

Collection of the Artist

\$2,400

Joseph Losavio



Black Chasm

2009—2011

Oil and collage on canvas

40" x 15 1/2"

Collection of the Artist

\$2,000



Dark Night/St John of the Cross

2012

Oil and collage on board

16" x 37 1/2"

Collection of the Artist

\$2,000



Iram

2013

Oil and collage on collage

36" x 30"

Collection of the Artist

NFS



Love, Love, Oh Love The Clamorous Echoes

2013

Oil on canvas

36" x 60"

Collection of the Artist

\$3,000

Joseph Losavio



Love's Unfolding Might Resigning

2013

Oil and collage on canvas

36" x 24"

Collection of the Artist

\$2,200



Lulled By The Airs With Which The Cedars Wave

2012

Oil and collage on canvas

9" x 12"

Collection of the Artist

\$500



New Forms Perpetually Springing

2008

Oil on canvas

36" x 24"

Collection of the Artist

\$2,200



Pain Of Lost Illusion Loved So Well

2014

Oil on canvas

24" x 48"

Collection of the Artist

\$2,400

Joseph Losavio



Pilgrim Of The Clouds

1997

Oil on canvas

20" x 50"

Collection of the Artist

\$2,400



Sweet and Heavy Grows The Earth

Perfumed By His Trailing Robes

2012

Oil and collage on canvas

15" x 30"

Collection of the Artist

NFS



*The Music That Transcends All
Coming In And Going Forth*

1996

Oil on canvas

48" x 26"

Collection of the Artist

\$2,400



Thee In All I See

2012

Oil and collage on canvas

9" x 12"

Collection of the Artist

NFS

Joseph Losavio



Therein Have I Seen The Inexpressible Ordering

2012

Oil and collage on canvas

12" x 36"

Collection of the Artist

\$2,000



Truth's Rising Day

2013

Oil and collage on canvas

36" x 60"

Collection of the Artist

\$3,000



When Secrets More Tender Than Evening Whisper

2007

Oil on canvas

36" x 18"

Collection of the Artist

\$2,000

Natalia Margulis

Inspired by nature's sublime beauty, I use a needle as a versatile instrument to recreate our natural environment as an embroidered textile. With my stitchery I investigate and express the endless transformation of nature through the seasons from new life to decay. The fluid and supple qualities of fiber allow me to reconstruct the natural forms and textures which fascinate me. Each piece is influenced by my desire to share and bring more meaning and joy into our lives. I am especially interested in creating the illusions of movement, delicacy, light and shadow.

Embroidered pictures, by means of their softness and vulnerability, awaken a deep sense of belonging to the organic world: through visual perception we experience physical tactility. The fragility of fiber is used to indicate the fragility of the world and reflects my passionate desire to help save and protect it.

Trying to expand the possibilities to express myself, I include all kinds of hand and machine stitches and often some elements of other fiber techniques such as dyeing, fusing, gilding, beading, heat distressing and embossing. These are my tools to achieve my art.

Natalia Margulis



Adagio on Ice

2014

Embroidered Picture

19" x 21"

Collection of the Artist

\$3,700



Amber Moon

2009

Embroidered Picture

28" x 16"

Collection of the Artist

\$3,700



Bathing Birches

2008

Embroidered Picture

33" x 33"

Collection of the Artist

\$20,000



Blue Reflection

2007

Embroidered Picture

15" x 20"

Collection of the Artist

NFS

Natalia Margulis



Early Snow

2010

Embroidered Picture

15" x 15"

Collection of the Artist

\$2,400



Fine Ice

2010

Embroidered Picture

17" x 29"

Collection of the Artist

NFS



Floating Oak Leaves

2007

Embroidered Picture

23" x 23"

Collection of the Artist

\$5,400



Ice Berries

2009

Embroidered Picture

15" x 15"

Collection of the Artist

\$3,360

Natalia Margulis



In Necklace of Mushrooms

Year: unknown

Embroidered Picture

17" x 17"

Collection of the Artist

\$4,400



Laces at the Curb

2007

Embroidered Pictures

17" x 17"

Collection of the Artist

NFS



Painted by Autumn

Year: unknown

Embroidered Picture

15" x 15"

Collection of the Artist

\$3,500



Reflected in Blue

2013

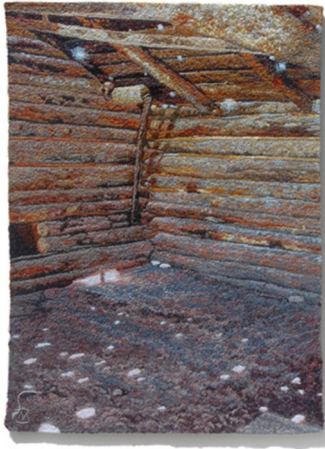
Embroidered Picture

17" x 17"

Collection of the Artist

\$1,500

Natalia Margulis



Seeds of Light

2010

Embroidered Picutres

20" x 15"

Collection of the Artist

NFS



Seeing Through

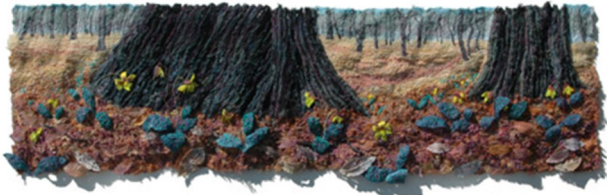
2014

Embroidered Picture

15" x 15"

Collection of the Artist

\$3,200



Sunny Drops

2011

Embroidered Picutres

16" x 44"

Collection of the Artist

\$20,000



Talking a Walk

2009

Embroidered Picture

27" x 27"

Collection of the Artist

NFS

Natalia Margulis



Woodpecker Art Walk

2010

Embroidered Picture

17" x 17"

Collection of the Artist

NFS