

MATTEAWAN
GALLERY

&
totemic17

The UV Portfolio

November 9 – December 22, 2013

Opening Reception Saturday, November 9, 6-9 pm

Matteawan Gallery and Totemic17 are pleased to present *The UV Portfolio*, an exhibition of one-of-a-kind, experimental, color woodcuts by 13 artists, including Christopher Albert, Joseph Ayers, Jen Bradford, Karlos Carcamo, Susan English, Lorrie Fredette, Thomas Huber, Leslie Kerby, Matt Kinney, Kimberly Loewe, Ryan Magyar, Kathy Moss, and Jeff White. The exhibition runs through December 22 and will feature dozens of prints created during a month of printmaking sessions at the Garrison Art Center in Garrison, NY.

The title UV Portfolio stands for unique variants, and the initials “UV” are often seen penciled on prints that are unique variations from the same initial matrix. Further, with “nature abstracted” as a thematic point of departure and the layering of translucent color a technical point of departure, the connotation of UV light also applies. The block used for each print offers the same starting point, but no two prints are alike due to constant shifts in color, incremental cutting or “reducing” the block and a shifting balance of intention and chance in the printmaking process. Artists were selected based on the use of abstraction or nature, or often a combination of the two, in their work. Most of the artists included in the UV Portfolio are not printmakers and have little experience with woodcuts. As a result, they were free to bring their own artistic practice to the work, whether it be woodworking for Matt Kinney, drawing for Kathy Moss, repetition of organic shapes for Lorrie Fredette, or high and low cultural references for Karlos Carcamo. Although the end results are quite different, the medium of the woodcut brings cohesion to the show, both in content and practice.

One of the most important aspects of The UV Portfolio is the spirit of community and collaboration under which it was created. Studio time was provided at the Garrison Art Center for a series of 7-hour sessions, during which 4 artists worked at a time. For artists who are used to working alone in their studios, this experience offered a new sense of cooperation and experimentation. Part classroom and part lab, the print shop was a place where the artists were free to try anything, to ask for advice, and to share materials. The resulting prints are records of this communal experience, as well as evidence of each artist’s own creativity and originality.

Matteawan Gallery opened in Beacon, NY in March 2013 and specializes in contemporary art by emerging and mid-career artists. Totemic17 is a publisher and facilitator of woodcut print projects and is based in Sleepy Hollow, NY. The UV Portfolio is their first collaboration.