

For Immediate Release

ANTONIA MUNROE | Festivities and Meditation | paintings & textiles  
November 3 - December 22, 2022

**VICTORIA MUNROE**  
fine art

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*Above is Sky*, 2022, gouache, 12 x 14 1/4"



*Dancing in Step*, 2022 gouache, 18 1/4 x 15 1/4"



*Blooming At Night*, 2022, gouache, 16 1/4 x 16 1/4"

From November 3 through December 22, 2022, Victoria Munroe Fine Art is proud to present *Festivities and Meditation*, paintings and textiles by Antonia Munroe. On view together for the first time, Munroe's distinct bodies of work - gouache paintings and hand dyed and stenciled tapestries - are contrasted in this engaging installation. The intimate scale and power of the flower paintings draw one close while the ambition of the ornate linen tapestries hold decorative composition to a unique standard. Her imaginative use of botanical sources and her inventive practice with repeating patterns are at the heart of Munroe's sensibility.

Munroe's travels and study trips to India over the last decade led to a profound transformation in her art. In particular, the collections of Indian miniature paintings in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Delhi, and the Pichhwai painted wall hangings at the Calico Museum of Textiles in Ahmedabad inspired her immersion in the study of miniature painting and traditional block printing techniques. Her studies with Indian master painter Ajay Sharma in Jaipur introduced her to exquisite materials and methods. Hand grinding the pigments brought a new intensity to her palette, and feathering with delicate squirrel hair brushes brought a discipline of application to her brushwork. Working in gouache on linen mounted on panel, Munroe integrates stencil printed borders to set off and frame the movement within her interior gardens. Titles such as *Blooming at Night*, *Divinely They Danced*, and *Floating in Exquisite Rhythm* evoke the fluid movement in traditional Indian painting. Once a still life painter, Munroe is now a painter of flowing botanical life bordered by pattern.

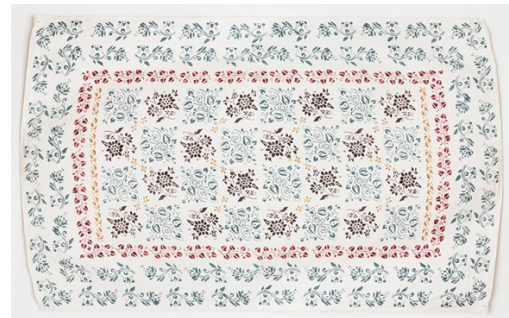
In Gujarat, where ancient textile making traditions have flourished, Munroe studied block printing under the auspices of textile historian, Judy Frater. Munroe's allegiance to block printed methods translates into her own original designs for mylar stencils which illuminate the borders and backgrounds of both the paintings and the textiles. The large tapestries are festive compositions in rich saturated dyes of plum, madder, pomegranate, myrobalan, lac, carmine, marigold and indigo.

In her own words:

"Each of my paintings presents an imaginary flowering plant. I place an open blossom on a vine of leafy choreography illustrating the bloom cycle. Or, a pendant blue flower hovers in dark space, each petal outlined in gold paint, a characteristic of the Pichhwai technique."



*Indigo Tapestry*, 2021, hand dyed, printed on linen 52 x 51"



*Ivory Tapestry*, 2022, hand printed on linen 54 x 85"

For further information and reproduction-quality images, please contact Margo Hudson  
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