

GALLERY 1: Amanda Barr—*Golden Hiccups*

GALLERY 2: Jen Garrido

ON VIEW: September 15–October 28, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Branch is pleased to present *Golden Hiccups*—Amanda Barr’s second solo exhibition at the gallery. Large scale installation, sculpture, and collage allow us another glimpse into Barr’s elaborate imagination. Although there is not a singular theme for the show, a language of form and imagery ties the work together: (mushrooms, flowers, owls, crystals, clouds). Much of her work evokes a sense of spirituality—a painted papier-mâché hippo takes on the power of a charm or totem animal; a large black cave beckons the participant on a transformative journey. There is a magical, metamorphic presence in her work—common, ordinary items are transformed into delightfully absurd objects (cloud burgers; crystals growing roots; golden owls). And although there is a playfulness and naiveté in Barr’s figures and sculptures, it is a skilled hand and a sophisticated application of color and texture that imbues her work with a childlike wonder. Boulders float—bright, sparkling, and weightless—while papier-mâché “sky burgers” feel nearly edible—soft and sweet like marshmallows. Corduroy logs sprout psychedelic fungi, and a pair of 32/230 jeans offers us a chance to get closer to heaven.

Originally from Ashland, Oregon, Barr left the west coast to study at the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence. As a represented artist, she has exhibited several times with Branch Gallery and participated at both *New Contemporaries*, Art Cologne (Germany), and the NADA Art Fair (Miami). Her work has been exhibited in galleries such as: Guild & Greyskul (New York), SECCA (Winston Salem), Cinders (Brooklyn), and Motel (Portland).

This is Jen Garrido’s first solo exhibition at Branch Gallery. A collection of 12 new paintings represents a painterly look at abstracted landscape. Garrido layers and layers the paint—revealing vibrant forms of bleeding colors. The process seems to be as much about what emerges from beneath the monochromatic white ground as the imagery that is left uncovered.

“The final painting is found by several things: abstraction; indecision; my personal sensibility; observed and idealized thoughts of the natural landscape; an instinctive attraction to the consistency of the paint; and a practiced sense of letting go.”

Garrido received her BFA in Painting from Sonoma State University and her MFA from Mills College in Oakland, CA. In addition, Garrido was also an affiliate artist-in-residence at the Headlands Center for the Arts. Garrido has exhibited extensively on the west coast and is also represented by Julie Baker Fine Art in California.

Gallery Hours: Wed–Sat 12–6 or by appt.

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