

MURRAY GUY

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MICHELLE SEGRE

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Known for her sculptures of enlarged detritus, Michelle Segre continues to examine the processes of growth and decay in the creation of a fantastical rock garden of cacti, fungi and rabbit. In her first solo exhibition at Murray Guy, she presents a hallucinatory landscape in which objects appear to have been transformed, as though viewed through a distorting lens. Made of pungent and vividly colored beeswax, everything in this landscape seems to be in the process of, or on the verge of eroding, a condition suggesting that the forces of nature are in constant play against form and life.

The magnification also means these forms become abstracted, made strange and new through their enlargement, creating a physical and psychological warpage. It seems as though we have shrunk to childlike proportions and are peering curiously at a world that has grown huge anew. Mysterious and wonderful, it's a world to be explored in our imagination, like a jungle in the garden or a desert of sand dunes on the beach. A large white rabbit rears up in the midst of this vibrant vegetation. Suggestive of fertility, of childhood stories, of nightmares, it seems part confection and part calcification. Eroding, metamorphosing, disintegrating, sprouting shoots and seemingly growing strange molds these sculptures create an illusory world of fetishized, optically charged surfaces.

For Segre the whole scenario is a metaphor for the organic and corporeal versus the abstract and otherworldly. The plants and animals of her world become surrogate bodies through which we view our own physical evolution and eventual re-absorption back into the earth.

Michelle Segre lives and works in New York. Her work was recently exhibited in *Officina America*, at the Galleria d'Arte Moderna, Bologna, Italy (catalogue); *Almost Warm and Fuzzy: Childhood and Contemporary Art*, P.S.1 Museum of Contemporary Art, New York; *Fundacio La Caixa*, Barcelona, Spain; *Art Gallery of Hamilton*, Ontario, Canada; *Fresh: The Altoids Curiously Strong Collection*, New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York. Last year she received the Louis Comfort Tiffany Biennial Award.

Please contact Janice Guy or Margaret Murray for further information on 212 463 7372.
Gallery hours are Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 6pm.