

Mrs.

SACHIKO AKIYAMA, SUSAN CLASSEN SULLIVAN,
ROBERT ZEHNDER
Tree At My Window

January 18-March 8, 2025
Opening Reception: Saturday, January 18, 2025, 4-7pm

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60-40 56th Drive

Maspeth, NY 11378

Mrs. is excited to present *Tree At My Window*, a group exhibition featuring new works by Sachiko Akiyama, Susan Classen Sullivan, and Robert Zehnder. Titled after the Robert Frost poem, the works in this show reflect on the complex relationship between humans and the natural world. Through sculpture and painting these three artists offer a unique perspective on how Mother Nature intersects with human existence, touching on themes of transformation, mystery, and mortality.

Tree At My Window

Tree at my window, window tree,
My sash is lowered when night comes on;
But let there never be curtain drawn
Between you and me.

Vague dream head lifted out of the ground,
And thing next most diffuse to cloud,
Not all your light tongues talking aloud
Could be profound.

But tree, I have seen you taken and tossed,
And if you have seen me when I slept,
You have seen me when I was taken and swept
And all but lost.

That day she put our heads together,
Fate had her imagination about her,
Your head so much concerned with outer,
Mine with inner, weather.

-Robert Frost

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Sachiko Akiyama's sculptures are deeply tied to the concept of presence and essence. Working primarily in woodcarving, Akiyama transforms natural materials into objects that reflect intangible qualities. Rather than aiming for literal representation, Akiyama's work seeks to evoke what lies beneath the surface—an inner portrait of the soul. Her pieces often integrate symbols from nature, such as trees, wolves, and water, to explore both personal and universal experiences. Drawing from mythology, art history, science, and literature, Akiyama's sculptures tell stories of migration and transformation, reflecting on the ways in which humans, like the environment, undergo cycles of change.

Akiyama's use of wood as a medium is particularly significant. The material itself, shaped by time and growth, becomes a symbol of life's cyclical nature. In her hands, the wood transcends its physicality, inviting viewers to explore deeper meanings within the forms. The artist's work resonates with Frost's notion of nature as both an external presence and an internal reflection. Much like the poem, Akiyama's sculptures allow for contemplation on the mysteries that lie within, as well as the connections that bind humanity to the world around them.

Susan Classen Sullivan's work takes a more direct approach to the symbolism of trees, using them as metaphors for the unseen forces that shape existence. Sullivan's exploration of trees emerged during time in her new studio, which is situated in a quiet field surrounded by forest. Here, the stillness of nature became a space for reflecting on what lies beneath the surface of human life. Trees, with their hidden root systems, parallel the human experience, where much of our identity and experiences remain unseen. Sullivan's sculptures incorporate structural grids to represent the biological systems, evoking both the ecosystems and human-made constructs.

Sullivan's work goes beyond a mere representation of trees; it is a meditation on the fragility of life, exploring the precariousness of both physical and emotional vulnerability. In *Moonbox Tree*, the artist links the terrestrial with the cosmic, symbolizing the mystery of existence and our reliance on larger systems. By focusing on the space between beginnings and endings—the quiet moments of transition—Sullivan captures the cyclical nature of life, death, and renewal. Her ceramics, like Frost's window tree, become a point of contemplation on the passage of time and the unseen forces that shape both human and the world of nature.

In contrast to Akiyama and Sullivan's focus on the material and symbolic presence of nature, **Robert Zehnder's** landscape paintings explore the abstract and metaphysical aspects of the wild. Zehnder's work intersects alien ecologies with imagined terrains, creating abstract biomes that resist definitive representation. The artist's dynamic process of layering, wiping, and excavating allows for forms to emerge organically, mirroring nature's cycles of transformation, decay, and renewal. Influenced by devotional art and the spiritual tone of the Renaissance, Zehnder's paintings capture the sensation of becoming, capturing nature not as a fixed entity, but as an evolving, fluid process.

Zehnder's landscapes are not meant to depict specific places but rather to evoke the emotional and psychological states that arise when encountering nature. His work focuses on the internal experience of transformation, mirroring the artist's interest in themes such as metabolism, topiaries, and the cycles of nature. In his paintings, the landscape becomes a metaphor for human experience—constantly shifting,

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never fully defined, and shaped by forces beyond our control. Through this process of abstraction, Zehnder invites viewers to consider the unknown and the unknowable aspects of the world, encouraging a deeper reflection on the mysteries of existence and the interconnectedness of all life forms.

Taken together, the works of Akiyama, Sullivan, and Zehnder offer a multifaceted exploration of humanity's relationship with nature. While Akiyama's sculptures evoke the spiritual and emotional dimensions of the natural world, Sullivan's tree forms bring attention to the unseen systems that govern both nature and human existence. Zehnder's abstract landscapes, meanwhile, explore the transience of the world and the ever-shifting boundaries between the material and the immaterial. These works invite viewers to reflect on the cycles of transformation and renewal that define both human life and Mother Nature.

At the core of *Tree at My Window* is the shared belief that nature is both a reflection of the human condition and a force that shapes our understanding of life. Whether through the tactile exploration of wood, the structural representation of trees, or the abstraction of landscapes, these artists engage in a dialogue about the mysteries of existence. The exhibition suggests that, like Frost's poem, nature is both a presence and a mirror, offering endless opportunities for reflection and discovery. Through their work, Akiyama, Sullivan, and Zehnder remind us of the delicate balance between the seen and the unseen, the known and the unknown, and the transient nature of all things.

Tree At My Window will be on view at Mrs., 60-40 56th Drive, Maspeth, Queens, NY 11378, through March 8, 2025. For more information please contact hello@mrsgallery.com.

Mrs.



Sachiko Akiyama
Understory, 2025
Wood, Resin, Oil, and Acrylic
16 x 16 x 31 inches
40.6 x 40.6 x 78.7 cm
(SA_004)

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Sachiko Akiyama

Only if there are angels in your head?, 2025

Wood, Acrylic Paint, String

14 1/2 x 6 1/2 x 31 inches

36.8 x 16.5 x 78.7 cm

(SA_003)

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Sachiko Akiyama

Empyrean, 2024

Wood, Epoxy, 24K Gold Leaf, and Acrylic

19 1/2 x 11 x 8 inches

49.5 x 27.9 x 20.3 cm

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Sachiko Akiyama

All the Stars, 2024

Wood, Brass, Epoxy, and Acrylic

17 1/2 x 9 x 6 inches

44.5 x 22.9 x 15.2 cm

(SA_001)

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Robert Zehnder

Summit, 2025

Oil on Canvas

63 x 53 x 5 inches

160 x 134.6 x 12.7 cm

(RZ_093)

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Robert Zehnder

Decorator, 2025

Oil on Canvas

40 x 32 x 5 inches

101.6 x 81.3 x 12.7 cm

(RZ_092)

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Robert Zehnder

Climbers, 2025

Oil on Canvas

36 x 28 x 5 inches (18 x 14 x 5 inches each)

91.4 x 71.1 x 12.7 cm (45.7 x 35.6 x 12.7 cm each)

(RZ_091)

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Susan Classen Sullivan

Conifer #4, 2022

Ceramic and Flashe

58 x 20 x 20 inches

147.3 x 50.8 x 50.8 cm

(SCS_003)

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Susan Classen Sullivan

Conifer #1, 2022
Ceramic and Flashe
60 x 24 x 24 inches
152.4 x 61 x 61 cm
(SCS_002)

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Susan Classen Sullivan

Moon Box Tree, 2025

Ceramic and Flashe

72 x 20 x 14 1/2 inches

182.9 x 50.8 x 36.8 cm

(SCS_001)

Mrs.

SACHIKO AKIYAMA

Lives and works in Maine

Education

Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture

MFA Sculpture, Boston University, Boston, MA

Post-Baccalaureate certificate in Studio Art, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA

BA Studio Art with honors, Amherst College, Amherst, MA

Solo Exhibitions

- 2022 *Bird by Bird*, Tracey Morgan Gallery, Asheville, NC
Through Lines, Brattleboro Museum, Brattleboro, VT
- 2020 *Three Meditations*, Shelter in Place Gallery, Area Code Art Fair, Boston, MA (online exhibition)
- 2019 *Terra Incognita*, Catamount Arts Center, St. Johnsbury, VT
- 2017 *Long Hand Poem*, Kniznick Gallery, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA (catalogue)
From Root to Sky, Hollister Hall, Babson College, Babson Park, MA
- 2016 *Between Here and There*, Matter and Light Gallery, Boston, MA
Untold Stories, Nesto Gallery, Milton Academy, Milton MA
- 2013-14 *On Finding Home*, University of Maine Museum of Art, Bangor, Maine
- 2012 *For the Birds*, Akino Fuku Museum of Art, Hamamatsu, Japan
Sachiko Akiyama, Art Space, Northern Essex Community College, Haverhill, MA
- 2011 *Things Unseen*, Danforth Museum, curated by John Baker and Nina Nielsen of Nielsen Gallery, Framingham, MA
- 2010 *I Remember What I Did Not See*, Mariboe Gallery, Peddie School, Hightstown, NJ
- 2007 *Alone Together*, Nielsen Gallery, Boston, MA
- 2005 *Between Dream and Memory*, Nielsen Gallery, Boston, MA
- 2003 *Dream of Birds*, winner of contest juried by Rachel Rosenfield Lafo, Bromfield Gallery, Boston, MA

Group Exhibitions

- 2025 *Tree At My Window*, Mrs., Maspeth, NY
- 2024 *The Wrong Sea*, Dunes Gallery in collaboration with Night Gallery (Los Angeles, CA), Portland, ME

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- Let the Light In*, curated by Tessa Greene O'Brien, Maine Center for Contemporary Art, Rockland, ME
- Simpatico*, Fowler-Kellogg Gallery, Chautauqua, NY
- 2023 NADA Miami Art Fair, Dunes Gallery, Miami, FL
- Quiet Light*, curated by Nina Nielsen and John Baker, Concord Art Association, Concord, MA
- From the Heart*, 3-person exhibition curated by John Stomberg (director of Hood Museum), AVA Gallery, Lebanon, NH
- 2022 *Oddkin*, curated by Kate McNamara, Oddkin, Providence, RI
- 2021 *TIME*, Strauss Gallery, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH
- Unmasked*, Southern Vermont Arts Center, Manchester, VT
- humanNATURE*, MUSA, Boston, MA (online exhibition)
- 2020 *Life on Earth: Superweed, Superpredator, Super Bloom*, curated by Hannah Cole, Tracey Morgan Gallery, Asheville, NC
- Animal Crossing*, curated by Dana Frankfort, Inman Gallery, Houston, TX (online exhibition)
- Selections from the Collection*, Gallery at Great Barrington Arts Center, Gordon College, Wenham, MA
- Other Places*, curated by Mark Brousseau, Tiger Strikes Asteroid, Greenville, NC (online exhibition)
- Being & Feeling: Alone, Together*, Lamont Gallery, Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, NH (catalogue)
- 2019 *Sagas*, Tiger Strikes Asteroid, Philadelphia, PA
- Your Plus-One*, Mount Airy Contemporary Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
- Impact*, Museum of Art, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH
- 2018 *Enigma and Persona*, 2-person exhibition, Gallery at Great Barrington Arts Center, Gordon College, Wenham, MA
- 2017 *Right Side Out: Self Portraits*, Able Baker Contemporary Gallery, Portland, ME
- Body/Head*, presented by Field Projects, Be Fluent Language School, New York, NY
- Momentum*, Museum of Art, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH
- 2016 *Julie Spoke Softly*, juried by Paulina Bebecka, director of Postmasters Gallery, Field Project, New York, NY
- Maine Biennial*, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockland, ME
- Back to School Special*, George Marshall Gallery, York, ME
- 2015 *Massachusetts Cultural Council Awards...in Sculpture*, New Art Center, Newton, MA
- Revealing Identity*, Concord Art Association, Concord, MA (catalogue)

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- Branching Out*, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA
The Artist Revealed, Museum of Art, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH
- 2011 *Chain Letter*, Samson Projects, Boston, MA
Faculty Exhibition, 808 Gallery, Boston University, Boston, MA
- 2010 *Animal Instinct*, John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, WI
InCite: Reunited, Denise Bibro Fine Art, New York, NY
- 2008 *Loners and Mavericks*, Nielsen Gallery, Boston, MA
Metaphor Minds, Julian Scott Memorial Gallery, Johnson State College, Johnson, VT
- 2007 *Sculpture, etc.*, Nielsen Gallery, Boston, MA
Emerging Women Artists, Smack Mellon, Brooklyn, NY
- 2006 *MASS 3D*, Boston Sculptors Gallery, Boston, MA
- 2005 *Regeneration*, Douglass College Library Galleries, New Brunswick, NJ
In Nature's Company, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA
- 2004 *Self-Evidence: Identity in Contemporary Art*, DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Lincoln, MA (catalogue)
Summer Selections, Nielsen Gallery, Boston, MA
- 2003 *Elements of Nature*, Concord Art Association, Concord, MA
Artists Without Borders, Nielsen Gallery, Boston, MA
States of Stillness, Project DK Art, Boston, MA
- 2002 *New Talent*, Alpha Gallery, Boston, MA
- 2001 *Creasion*, Boston Center for the Arts, Boston, MA

Awards and Honors

- 2022 Surfpoint Foundation Residency, York, ME
- 2021 Millay Arts, Austerlitz, NY
- 2020 Canterbury Shaker Village, Canterbury, NH
- 2018 Piscataqua Region Artist Advancement Grant, New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, Concord, NH
- 2017 Finalist Piscataqua Region Artist Advancement Grant, New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, Concord, NH
Blanche E. Colman Award, Mellon Foundation, Boston, MA
- 2015 Finalist Massachusetts Cultural Council Grant for Sculpture, Boston, MA
- 2014 Ucross Foundation Residency, Clearmont, WY
Playa Residency, Summer Lake, OR
- 2012 Artist in Residence at Akino Fuku Museum, Hamamatsu, Japan
Elisabeth Ochsenfeld Residency, Frankfurt, Germany

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- 2011 Cambridge Women's Travel Club Fellowship, Cambridge, MA
Brother Thomas Fellowship, Boston Foundation, Boston, MA
Honorable Mention, Margo Harris Hammerschlag Direct Carving Award, National Association of Women Artists, New York, NY
- 2009 Nominee for Foster Prize, Institute for Contemporary Art, Boston, MA
- 2008 Blanche E. Colman Award, Mellon Foundation, Boston, MA
- 2006 Artist Resource Trust Grant, Berkshire Taconic Foundation, Great Barrington, MA
Nominee for Foster Prize, Institute for Contemporary Art, Boston, MA
- 2005 Joan Mitchell Award, Joan Mitchell Foundation, NY, NY
Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Grant, Montreal, Quebec
Massachusetts Cultural Council Grant, Boston, MA
- 2004 Vermont Studio Center, partial fellowship, Johnson, VT
Ludwig Vogelstein Foundation Grant, Shelter Island, NY
- 2003 George Sugarman Foundation Grant, Novato, CA
Ruth Chenven Foundation Fellowship, NY, NY
- 2002 Blanche E. Colman Award, Mellon Foundation, Boston, MA
Marianna Pineda Award, Boston University, Boston, MA
- 2001 Mary O'Shannon Award in Public Art, St. Botolph Club Foundation, Boston, MA

Collections

DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum
Gordon College, Wenham, MA

Mrs.

SUSAN CLASSEN SULLIVAN

Lives and works in Connecticut

Education

- 1994 MA, Wesleyan University
- 1981 Art Education Certification, Central Connecticut State University
- 1979 BA, Fine Art and Literature, Eastern Connecticut State University

Selected Exhibitions

- 2025 *Tree At My Window*, Mrs., Maspeth, NY
- 2024 *A.D. 5th Anniversary Exhibition*
- 2023 *Drawings by Sculptors*, organized by Carl D'Alvia,
Helena Anrather Gallery, New York, NY
- 2021 *The Frog Show*, curated by Reilly Davidson, Harkawick, New York, NY
- 2020 *You've got to have eyes in the back of your head*, solo show, Catbox Contemporary,
Queens, New York
- 2019 *cut the branch you're sitting on*, Joshua Abelow and Susan Classen Sullivan, Fred Escher,
NJ
- 2018 *Furies*, Helena Anrather, New York, NY
- 2016 *Director's Favorites*, Douglas Hyland selection, New Britain Museum of American Art
New Britain, CT
- 2015 *Remythologies: New Inventions of Old Stories*, Housatonic Museum, Bridgeport, CT
- 2012 *Love you more than life* (solo exhibition), Real Art Ways, Hartford, CT
- 2011 *Extraordinary Facilities*, 50th Anniversary Exhibition, John Slade Ely House, New
Haven, CT
- 2010 *Mindsets*, Yale Haskins Laboratories, New Haven, CT
Grey Area, Connecticut Commission on Art and Tourism, Harford, CT
- 2007 *Radius: Emerging Artists*, Aldrich Museum/ Ridgefield Guild, Ridgefield, CT
Connecticut Contemporary, Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT
- 2006 *Sodo Project*, Sodo Gallery, Hartford, CT
Housatonic Museum of Art, curated by Judy Kim, Bridgeport, CT
- 2005 *Circles*, John Slade Ely House, New Haven, CT
- 2003 *New/Now* (solo exhibition), New Britain Museum of American Art, Juror: Will K. Wilkins,
Real Art Ways
- 2002 *Pump House Gallery* (two-person exhibition), Hartford, CT

Mrs.

Body Language, John Slade Ely House, Center for Contemporary Art. New Haven, CT

2001 Award Exhibition, Mill Pond House Gallery, Smithtown, NY

2000 *This Little Piggy Went to Market* (solo exhibition), Northwestern Community College

Awards and Grants

2010 Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism Fellowship

2007 Aldrich Museum Radius Emerging Artist Fellow

Selected Publications

2019 Editors of *Journal*, “cut the branch you’re sitting on at darkZone,” *Journal*, April
Editors of *Autre*, “cut the branch you’re sitting on at darkZone,” *Autre*, April
Editors of *Ofluxo*, “cut the branch you’re sitting on at darkZone,” *O FLUXO*, April

2018 Andrea K. Scott, “Furies,” *The New Yorker*

Marialuisa Pasto, “Furies at Helena Anrather,” *DL Review*

2015 Joe Jenkins, “Housatonic Museum reinvents the past,” *Daily Voice*

2013 “Life Ascending,” *New Haven Register*

2012 Susan Dunne, “Love you more than life,” *Hartford Courant*

Stephen Kobasa, “Innovative Ceramics,” *Artes Magazine*

2007 Matt Eagan, “A different state of mind,” *Hartford Courant*

Collections

Douglas Hyland Collection
New Britain Museum of American Art

Mrs.

ROBERT ZEHNDER

b. 1992, New Jersey
Lives and works in Brooklyn, NY

Education

2015 The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, BFA

Solo Exhibitions

2025 Forthcoming, C L E A R I N G, New York, NY
 Forthcoming, Mrs., Maspeth, NY

2024 Dallas Invitational, C L E A R I N G, Dallas, TX

2023 *Agony in the Garden*, C L E A R I N G, Los Angeles, CA
 Independent, Mrs., New York, NY

2022 *Ageless Machine*, Mrs., Maspeth, NY

Group Exhibitions

2025 *Tree At My Window*, Mrs., Maspeth, NY

2024 *Altar States*, Josh Lilley, London, UK
 The Salon by NADA & The Community, Mrs., Paris, France
 Art Basel Paris, C L E A R I N G, Paris, France
 Art Basel, C L E A R I N G, Basel, Switzerland
 Art Basel Hong Kong, C L E A R I N G, Hong Kong

2023 *Sunrise, Sunset*, Bradley Ertaskian, Montreal, CA
 Kiaf SEOUL, Mrs., Seoul, Korea
 Meteor, DOCUMENT, Chicago, IL
 Felix Art Fair, Mrs., Los Angeles, CA

2022 *Sculpture Garden II*, Art Lot, Brooklyn, NY
 Ojos de Perro Azul, curated by Natalie Weder and Nuria Galland, Marinaro, New York, NY
 Kiaf Seoul, Rachel Uffner Gallery, Seoul, South Korea
 a somewhat thin line, in lieu, Los Angeles, CA
 One Hundred Eighty-Six Billion Steps to the Sun, C L E A R I N G, New York, NY
 Supermoon, C L E A R I N G, Los Angeles, CA
 Life in an Ivory Tower, curated by Jack Siebert, New York, NY
 Dallas Art Fair, Anat Ebgi, Dallas, TX
 Felix Art Fair, Mrs., Los Angeles, CA

Mrs.

Buried and Deep, with Erica Mao, Rachel Uffner Gallery, New York, NY

Platform, by David Zwirner, Mrs., Online

2020

Anniversary, Mrs., Maspeth, NY

Theorem X, Rachel Uffner Gallery, New York, NY

Selected Press

2024

Carollo, Elisa, *A Constellation of Salon-Style Fairs Rounded Out Paris Art Week*,

Observer, October 19

Moroz, Sarah, *New Paris Fair from NADA Showcases Emerging Art and Galleries*, Artsy,

October 18

2022

Clare Gemima, *Robert Zehnder: Ageless Machine*, Brooklyn Rail, October 2022

Kristen Guglielmo, *Mrs. Opens a Window to Surrealistic Dreamscapes*, Queens

Chronicle, October 13, 2022

Editors, *10 Shows to See in September*, Platform Art, September 5, 2022

Editors, *Must See*, Artforum, September 6, 2022

Graver, David, *Fantastical Landscapes from Frieze Los Angeles and Felix Art Fair*, Cool

Hunting, January 20, 2022

Clare Gemima, *Gallery Watch: Robert Zehnder at Rachel Uffner*, EV Grieve, March 3,

2022

Collections

Morgan Stanley Collection, New York, NY

Mint Museum Permanent Collection, Charlotte, NC

ICA Miami, Miami, Florida

X Museum, Beijing, China

Aïshti Foundation, Jal El Dib, LEBANON