

weekend



FANTASY LAND

Suzan Obermeyer scavenges materials for brightly colored artworks

SUZAN OBERMEYER/COURTESY PHOTO



AndersonRanch arts center
FILM SCREENING
The Art of Making It
 WED, JUNE 29 6PM

6PM Cocktails and light bites
7PM Film screening followed by a panel discussion with featured artists moderated by Curator-in-Residence **Douglas Fogle**
 Artist Gisela McDaniel. Image courtesy of Wischful Thinking Productions



2022 AUDIENCE AWARD WINNER, SXSW
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ASPEN FILM
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Fantasy botanicals

Longtime local Suzan Obermeyer debuts new work at McHugh Antiques

Katherine Roberts
Special to The Aspen Times

While the name “Obermeyer” has been synonymous with skiing, and Aspen, for decades, another Obermeyer in town channels her love of nature off the slopes.

“Fantasy Botanicals” is now open at McHugh Gallery on Cooper Avenue, in Aspen’s downtown core. The 15 paintings in the exhibition are all brightly colored, original works by Klaus Obermeyer’s daughter, Suzan.

“I’m very honored to have my work next to Hunt Slonem’s work, along with other highly collected artworks,” she said during an interview following the opening reception for the exhibition over the Food & Wine Classic weekend. “The collection at McHugh is sophisticated; Ricki and John McHugh’s works on display have bold color, and they celebrate ocular discovery. There is so much to see in the gallery.”

McHugh Gallery is unique in that it offers a mix of fine contemporary art from the likes of painter Slonem, as well as a robust collection of antique collectibles dating as far back as the 1700s. The interesting juxtaposition of the ornate antique objects alongside Obermeyer’s bold pink, green, orange and yellow paintings is the perfect foil for a body of work that was something of a reaction to the COVID-19

IF YOU GO ...

What: “Fantasy Botanicals”
When: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday, showcased through the summer
Where: McHugh Gallery, 607 E. Cooper Ave., Aspen

pandemic.

Obermeyer began the ‘Fantasy Botanicals’ at the beginning of Covid, while she visited her brother in Malibu, California during the first lockdown.

“The news cycle kept showing images of the coronavirus,” she said, but despite the news of sickness and death, “I was determined to have an inspirational relationship with nature.”

The lockdown and isolation of Covid also affected her process.

“I experimented initially, as all the stores were closed. I used everything I could scavenge, from ink (to) all kinds of paints, paper and fabric,” she said.

The process continued when Obermeyer returned home to the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, from California.

“Later on in my home studio, here in the Valley, I made solvent transfers, using a process which is similar to Robert Rauschenberg’s process. In the fall of 2020, I was able to spend eight weeks up at Anderson Ranch Arts Center doing a facilitated studio practice,” which is dedicated private studio time, with the help of Anderson Ranch on-site staff, she said. “I played with screened elements and delved deeply into pushing mixed media painting.”



SUZAN OBERMEYER/COURTESY PHOTO

Suzan Obermeyer’s “Fantasy Botanicals” will be showcased throughout the summer at the McHugh Gallery in Aspen.

BOTANICALS, B4



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