



Berta Walker
GALLERY
 HAROLD HAVEN BROWN (1869-1932)
 Mayflower, Provincetown, 1620, Color Woodblock Print



PROVINCETOWN 400
 1620-2020

July 27, 2020

For release: upon receipt

Photos available: please call Grace Hopkins, 508-487-6411 or 941-350-7135 (Mobile)

Open by [appointment](#) and through Walker's Windows.

Masks required

OPENING

Saturday August 15 - September 5

three one-person shows

MIKE CARROLL *paintings*

SKY POWER *paintings*

PAUL RESIKA *paintings & book premiere*

2020 is the 400th Anniversary of the First Landing of the Mayflower Pilgrims in New England, arriving in Provincetown November 11, 1620. Prior to their sailing on to Plymouth, in an attempt to assure "Unity and Accord" in this new world, The Mayflower Compact was written and signed on shipboard, setting in motion America's first self-governing Democracy.

"Signed by most adult males on board, this document is now recognized, along with the Magna Carta and the United States Constitution, as one of the three most important documents in world history establishing self-government." (Jerry Roberts for National Maritime Historical Society "Sea History" Magazine, Summer 2020.)

Continuing to celebrate Provincetown's unique place in the history of America and the arts in America, Berta Walker Gallery joins in the "Provincetown 400" celebrations, honoring this first landing of Pilgrims on Provincetown soil, and the Native Americans who were here when they sailed in.

The gallery continues to celebrate Provincetown's unique history of "first landings" by introducing four new artists throughout the season: **Mike Carroll, Lucy Clark, Deb Mell, Laura Shabott**. They will join many of our historic community of artists to include **Salvatore Del Deo, Romolo Del Deo, Joseph Diggs, Elspeth Halvorsen, In Memoriam, Sky Power, Paul Resika**. Additionally, we are excited by a special invitational group exhibition, "**Contemporary Cape Artists of Native American Heritage**" to open in the fall in concert with festivities arranged by the Provincetown 400 Committee.



Mike Carroll, Personalia, 2020,
 Oil on Wood Panel, 12 x 12"

Mike Carroll "Hidden Forces at Play"

Continuing the Season's celebration of "First Landings" at Berta Walker Gallery", we are delighted to welcome Mike Carroll as part of our "First Landings" celebrations.

Mike Carroll's paintings on wood are constructed from successions of shapes that stack, jostle, and intersect, like jigsaw puzzles - reflections of nature and our participation in it. Carroll refers to these paintings as "calendar paintings", as they are "meant to be documents of a working painting practice, of a succession of days in the studio."

All are moods. Carroll paints stillness and subtle shifts in space in conversation. His multi-colored and "colored" black and white paintings "embrace imperfection, impermanence and the passing of time". Mike Carroll's paintings reflect his sense

that "nothing exists by itself independently of the rest. Everything is related to everything else; nothing is isolated, a philosophy of Buddhism".

In discussing the difference for Carroll in the paintings focused more on black and white or exuding color, he observes that the gray paintings employ muted colors and close values like the landscape colors of Cape Cod as horizons mute into soft grays and blues vs. more intense colors that might relate to artificial light, other landscapes, or the clamor of urban life. When asked if he starts with color or shape Mike says, "I see space first." Color and shape interact to approach a moment of critical mass designed to be completed by the viewer.

During a studio visit with Michelle Weinberg for an article in Provincetown Arts, Weinberg notes: "This sensitivity to the hidden forces at play in each work and his vulnerability to the subtexts and desires exerted on him from each canvas cast the artist in the role of a tender nurturer of some form of natural phenomena. His process is a direct descendant and a personal innovation on Hofmann's famous "push-pull" directive... Both methodical and fiery, Carroll's paintings forge a delicate compromise between commerce and desire. They bode well for a career on an upward arc."

Mike Carroll began studying art as a young person, continued his exploration at Emerson College and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and independently in Boston's underground scene in the 1980's and 90's when he also ran galleries and alternative performance spaces. Arriving in Provincetown in the early 90's he began a concentration on painting and has exhibited regularly throughout the Country.

Sky Power "A Time of Discovery"

Sky Power continues to allow "discovery" to guide her in her paintings. Whether they are landscapes, seascapes, skyscapes or dreamscapes, they all have in common her focused attention to composition that she patiently puts down on canvas or board until what is there is what she feels inside.

"I have spent these past six months focused solely on painting. For me, it has been a time of discovery, an opportunity to allow myself to experiment and to re-imagine. This current exhibition includes paintings reflecting my life experiences enhanced through connecting to the mystical qualities of the Cape light and the dunes (*The Beauty We Love, Rumi and Shifting Sands*). Other paintings, *Living on a Precipice*, and *Transformation* are somewhat surreal, conveying my response to the challenges associated with our changing world, and the need to grow and create new systems."



Sky Power, *Dreaming of a New World*, 2020, oil on canvas, 24 x 30"

Asked about "*In Dreaming of a New World*" during her interview with Susannah Elisabeth Fulcher of the Provincetown Independent, Power said: "I created a surreal, abstracted form in the middle of a diffused landscape to convey the idea of a dream, and made the dreamer a part of the dream physically. Because she is painted in similar color tones, your eyes do not immediately go to the figure. I wanted the viewer to experience the dream first, then come upon her, and realize that she is the dreamer. And I wanted her to be indigenous, because these are the spiritual roots that we, as a species, need to get back in touch with. I am part Cherokee. The covid virus has temporarily, globally, stopped humans from continuing with the life structures that we have created. This is an opportunity for us to reflect on who we are, and who we could be - an opportunity to change."

Among many exhibitions Power has participated in, the most recent was in Fall 2019, a juried show in which 25 artists were selected from across the United States. It was curated by artist art writer Andre Van der Wende for the Cape Cod Museum of Art, who has written about Sky Power: "Her work is color-infused and evocative. He continues in Cape Arts: "Within fields of strong clean color and forceful gestures of oil paint -

drips and splatters rain freely - Power's work is spirited and energetic, deep and soulful, a winning combination of rapture and reserve."

Paul Resika
Exhibition and Book Premiere
"Paul Resika: Eight Decades of Painting"



Paul Resika, Pilgrims, 1987-89, oil on canvas, 60 x 96"

Just off the press is a major book on Paul Resika, reflecting on eight decades of painting, beautifully edited by Blair Resika, photographer & musician. This book is featured in Provincetown Arts Magazine, with an article written by the magazine's co-founder & Editorial Director, Chris Busa, just prior to his death in June, 2020.

In launching his article, Chris Busa describes his response: "PAUL RESIKA: EIGHT DECADES OF PAINTING, edited by Blair Resika and structured into four phases of twenty years each of her husband's relentless inquiry into the pictorial possibilities of paint, is a major examination of a lifetime of work. The text shifts fluidly between the visual thinking apparent in the range of sumptuous color reproductions and vivid illuminations in essays by Avis Berman, Karen Wilkin, Jennifer Samet, and John Yau -essays punctuated by remarkable insights from fifty prominent commentators, including many of the poets that Resika has been reading, and pondering, through the serpentine cycles of an exemplary career."

In this overview exhibition, Berta Walker Gallery will feature PILGRIMS, an eight foot wide painting, completed over two years from 1987-1989, reproduced in the book. Asked why he had titled this particular painting "Pilgrims", he remembers that as he looked at the completed painting, the mysterious light over the land, he felt the painting reflected a sense of freedom and discovery that the Pilgrims must have felt landing in Provincetown Harbor 400 years ago.

Also included will be a variety of paintings representing six decades, many of them reproduced in the book. Paintings in this exhibition and reproduced in the book offer the opportunity to observe how Resika has continued to dazzle with his uncanny ability to keep pushing the limits of what color can do. James Panero in the New Criterion wrote: "One could say a line runs through all of Resika's work. Just as the Venetian masters did not need to sign their own paintings, since their brushstrokes served as their signatures, Resika has a signature way of handling paint that is entirely his own." Art critic Hilton Kramer has written "Paul Resika is now without peer in his own generation, a generation that has often made color its most important pictorial interest." and Poet John Yau has commented, "Paul Resika has been pushing his forms toward the brink of oblivion and finding that edge where dissolution invariably begins," which we'll observe viewing "Fish, Moon, Dragonfly", 2017, 64" x 51" in the current exhibition.

And most recently, Chris Busa wrote: "Resika...is impersonal and self-effacing regarding the source of his talent." This observation resulted from an incident in Resika's studio when Chris discovered an older painting and complimented Paul on it. "That's good! Did I do that?" Another writer, Sue Harrison observed several years ago: "Resika doesn't like to talk about his art and says most artists can't talk about their own work in a meaningful way. He says he just paints and never knows if it will come out well or not. We observe in this exhibition that Paul Resika is clearly an artist who enjoys all his work and continues to fearlessly stand up in front of the empty canvas."



Romolo Del Deo, bronze sculpture
Salvatore Del Deo, Homage to Patricia Marie, 1976-2000

CONTINUING
through Saturday, August 8
four one-person shows

**Laura Shabott,
Salvatore Del Deo,
Romolo Del Deo,
Elsbeth Halvorsen**



UPCOMING EXHIBITION

SEPTEMBER 10 - SEPTEMBER 26
Contemporary Cape Artists of Native American Heritage
(in collaboration with Provincetown 400
First Landings Celebrations, 9/10-9/14)

Ride Hamilton, Yeffe Kimball (1914-1978), Deb Mell, Sky Power, Duane Slick, others

Due to the restrictions caused by the 2020 worldwide pandemic, most exhibitions will be presented with easy viewing through Walker's Windows

(Our lights are always on for you.)

Click [HERE](#) to make an appointment or call 508-487-6411 or 941-350-7135

OPEN Wednesday-Saturday, 12-4 and as we can accommodate visitor needs

"Berta Walker's gallery mission is voiced in the motto that has guided her over the years, 'Presenting the History of American Art as seen through the Eyes of Provincetown'. She aims for nothing less than documenting the role that artists associated with Provincetown have played in the major movements in American art...making the past vital to the living artists she represents, replenishing the present with a curatorial finesse that is highly regarded."

Andre van der Wende, Provincetown Arts

Representing:

Donald Beal, Varujan Boghosian, Polly Burnell, Mike Carroll, Lucy Clark, Romolo Del Deo, Salvatore Del Deo, Joseph Diggs, Rob DuToit, Robert Henry, Grace Hopkins, Brenda Horowitz, Penelope Jencks, David Kaplan,

Judyth Katz, Anne MacAdam, Danielle Mailer, Deb Mell, Erna Partoll, Sky Power, Blair Resika, Paul Resika, Laura Shabott, Peter Watts, Murray Zimiles

Frequent guests: Ed Giobbi, Susumu Kishihara, Dana McCannel, Jim Peters, John Thomas

Estates: Gilbert Franklin, Elspeth Halvorsen, Budd Hopkins, John Kearney, Gloria Nardin, Selina Trieff, Ione Gaul Walker, Nancy Whorf

Masters in Our Collections: Gerritt Beneker, Byron Browne, Oliver Chaffee, James Floyd Clymer, Jim Forsberg, Sue Fuller, Dorothy Lake Gregory, Marsden Hartley, Charles Heinz, Charles W. Hawthorne, Hans Hofmann, Edward Hopper, Peter Hunt, Karl Knaths, Blanche Lazzell, Lucy L'Engle, Herman Maril, Ross Moffett, Vollian Rann, Helen Sawyer, Carl Sprinchorn, Agnes Weinrich.



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GALLERY

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Mayflower, Provincetown, 1820, Color Woodblock Print

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508 487 6411 BertaWalkerGallery.com AMPLE PARKING



PROVINCETOWN 400
1820-2020

Grace Hopkins, Director -- Berta Walker, Curator -- David Henry Perry, Curator

