

STEPHEN WIRTZ GALLERY

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JENNIFER NUSS

After Artemis: Paintings on Paper

Exhibition dates: January 26 – February 26, 2005

Opening reception for the artist Thursday, February 3, 2005, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Stephen Wirtz Gallery announces *After Artemis*, an exhibition of paintings on paper by Jennifer Nuss depicting figurative imagery inspired by the mythology of the goddess Artemis as the mistress of wild beasts. This exhibition is the San Francisco debut for this Manhattan-based artist.

Included in the exhibition will be several large-scale works in gouache on collaged textural Japanese paper depicting female figures in imagined landscapes. These fantastical narratives chronicle the misbehavior of these characters as they interact with their environment and its inhabitants that can include mythical animals, specifically a black wolf-dog. Using Artemis as inspiration for the figures in this series, Nuss' imagery explores erotic connotations of hunting and courtship while examining the dichotomies of the goddess' attributes. Artemis is fierce predator and sustenance giver, virgin and goddess of childbirth, and protector of both animal and hunter.

The figures are built from a multitude of repetitive lines and marks. The layering of the tactile paper that partially obscures the painted imagery produces a satisfying visual effect.

Nuss states, "I want to challenge my own insecurities and ideas of womanhood. I want the work to be involved in the grotesque fantasy and the idea of feminine folly while exploring the complexities of these female figures as almost fallen Eves from Eden."

After Artemis follows from Nuss' previous series of self-created visual sagas involving female characters that have included a "Goat Girl" inspired by tales of trolls in Austrian folklore.

JENNIFER NUSS lives and works in New York City. She is a MFA graduate from Yale University and was the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2001.

Stephen Wirtz Gallery is located at 49 Geary St., 3rd Fl., San Francisco, CA 94108, (415) 433-6879. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday, 9:30-5:30, Saturday 10:30-5:30.

For additional information please contact Julie Casemore, Tel.: (415) 433-6879, julie@wirtzgallery.com