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Lay Bare
Elana Bober
Iris Rountree

On View: April 14 – June 3, 2022

Gallery Hours: Wed – Sat: 1:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Sunday: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm



Iris Rountree, *Zinnias*, 2022,
Handmade paper of cotton, abaca, and zinnia petals, 27 x 36 x 2.5 in



Elana Bober, *The March 2*, 2022,
Watercolor, Guache, and Ink on paper, 22 x 22 in

TINT Gallery is pleased to announce “*Lay Bare*,” featuring works by Elana Bober and Iris Rountree.

The last couple of years have forced many of us to look inward, to figure out what matters, to confront our anxieties. Artists Elana Bober and Iris Rountree have done just that through their new body of work on display at TINT Gallery. What results is art that strips away all pretense, that asks what happens when we lay bare our deepest thoughts, what happens when the materials we use reveal what is at the core of the natural world that surrounds us.

Both Rountree and Bober are inspired by their environs in Northern California. Rountree makes her own paper, incorporating plants she collects along the Russian River, at farms, along roadsides, and in yards. Grasses, flowers, fennel, lavender, various cover crops, and dried leaves create color gradients in Rountree’s handmade paper, ranging from light neutrals of the dryer materials to richer greens or pinks from wildflowers. During the pandemic, the continued draught in California became even more noticeable as the trees on the hills began to look strained. Rountree felt compelled to collect plants that caught her eye, finding a need to capture the colors and textures of the affected landscape, to acknowledge the results of climate change.

Bober similarly infuses her work with the natural world. Deep into the pandemic, Bober began sneaking away alone to spend time along the Northern California coast. There, she would hike and stare into the glory of the tide pools. Deep in the natural world, Bober could regroup and recenter. When the tide is low, a hidden world is revealed, a magical world that sparks Bober’s imagination. The locations she spent time at are depicted in loose watercolor: sky, rocks, seabed. Characters emerge, anthropomorphized with tales of their own making, inspired by the movement of the tides.

Rountree and Bober use repetition and patterns in the artmaking process and in the imagery in their work as a means of working through their anxieties. Through her art, Bober escapes her covid fears, the difficult challenges of young kids at home, and the dark space in her mind that was growing murkier and murkier. Bober uses symbols over and over again, configuring them into different narratives. The graphic lines in her work are repetitive, meditative, slow, deliberate, and precise.

For Rountree, the process of making paper and creating repetitive forms helps her stay present in her physical surroundings and eases her anxieties about our changing climate. The ebbs and flows of weather and drought throughout the years have always been constant, but we live in a time where extreme weather patterns are becoming more normal and the future of our biomes is uncertain. Rountree turns her handmade paper into sculptural works, mimicking natural forms such as petals, cells, coral, rain, leaves, bubbles, or snow.

Bober’s and Rountree’s artworks encourage us to take time to be still, to remind us of nature’s wonders, to enjoy the plants, flowers, rivers, trees, tides that are all around us, here, in this moment.

About the Artists

Elana Bober studied fine arts as an undergraduate at Yale University. After working as an assistant to a NYC based artist, she lost confidence in her artistic promise, feeling she had nothing to say, no mastery of any particular artistic skill. She veered away from fine arts and studied fashion design at Parsons School of Design culminating in a 15 year career in commercial design. Decades later, she has confidently returned to her first love, fine art. Her time spent in commercial design honed her drafting skills which she has applied to her art. Her graphic lines are repetitive, meditative, slow, deliberate, and precise. She now has her own defined aesthetic that incorporates her fascination with the natural world.

Bober currently lives in San Francisco, a place she has called home for the past 17 years, with her husband, two daughters, and two cats.

Iris Rountree is a papermaker, sculptor, and installation artist currently based in Sonoma County, CA. Originally from the mountains of Western North Carolina, she moved to California in 2019 after spending a few growing seasons on a flower farm. She is inspired by the natural world, flowers, organic forms, and the biodiversity of the areas she observes.

Currently drawn to the effects of the drought on the California landscape, she gathers plants such as grasses, oak leaves, flower petals, fennel, and other found plants from around Sonoma County to incorporate into the papermaking process. Her sculptures are created using the handmade paper rolled into circles and assembled onto branches.

She received her BA in Studio Art from Warren Wilson College in 2017, where she first combined her love of plants with her creative work. She is largely a self-taught papermaker and continues to explore this artform through experimentation.

About TINT Gallery

TINT Gallery opened and joined the San Francisco art community in October, 2021. TINT showcases contemporary artists who innovate across media, spotlighting women artists in particular. We carefully curate selections that showcase the artists' technical skills and their creative process. We look for the unusual, the surprising, the unordinary. Our artists find unexpected ways to use common media, creating a craft of their own along the way.

TINT is a new kind of gallery: there's no intimidation, prices are always listed, and the process of acquiring art is made transparent and accessible. We've even created a seating area so you can linger and take in the art. TINT's goal is to connect to the local community, to provide a space for meaningful conversations, and to bring a feeling of warmth and welcome to an art gallery.



Founder Michelle Edelman is an art historian, stone sculptor, and lawyer. She holds an undergraduate degree from Northwestern University, an MA in art history from the Courtauld Institute of Art in London, and a JD from The George Washington University. Michelle loves searching for undiscovered gems in the contemporary art world. She created TINT to share her finds, to celebrate artistic talent, and to cultivate community through art.

For additional information, images, or exclusive interviews please contact:

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