

Tending Toward the Untamed; artists respond to the wild garden

Wave Hill Glyndor Gallery - April 2012

rebecca morales

Born 1962 in Torrance, CA
Lives in Los Angeles, CA

Seral, 2011-2012

Gouache, watercolor, ink and pastel on vellum
45" x 41"

Courtesy BravinLee programs, New York, NY

Seral, the title of Rebecca Morales's painting, refers to the intrinsic quality of Wave Hill's Wild Garden, a place where different communities of flora and fauna inhabit a site to create an environment that endures through processes of ecological succession. She meticulously draws and paints mosses, lichens and other plants found in and around the Wild Garden, and utilizes discarded, manufactured fabrics with patterns that interpret nature. By combining disparate natural and manufactured imagery into an interwoven composition, Morales replicates in her method of working the underlying configuration of the garden. Morales's background in scientific rendering, as a field biology illustrator, and in paper conservation influenced the meticulous drawing and painting techniques she developed for this work, including her sculptural use of calf skin. The result is infinitely sumptuous and alluring, with a hint of unease. Morales has also made a hyper-resolution, stop-action film that reveals the evolution of the painting, which itself can be seen as a metaphor for growth.

Rebecca Morales has exhibited widely, with solo exhibitions at BravinLee programs, New York, NY, and Daniel Weinberg Gallery, Los Angeles, CA. Her work has been included in group exhibitions such as *Botanica*, Hunterdon Art Museum, Clinton, NJ; *Eden's Edge: Fifteen LA Artists*, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA; and *Rebecca Morales - Mary Kay*, Grand Arts, Kansas City, MO. Her work has been collected by the Hammer Museum; the Contemporary Museum, Honolulu, HI; the Anderson Collection, San Francisco, CA; and Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, WA. She received a BFA from Otis Art Institute, Los Angeles, CA.

—JMcG

