

As seen in the
December 2009 issue of

 AMERICAN
art COLLECTOR



UPCOMING SHOW

Up to 10 works on show
December 4-30, 2009
Evoke Contemporary
130 Lincoln Avenue, Suite F
Santa Fe, NM 87501
(505) 995-9902

• SHOW LOCATION SANTA FE, NM



FRAN HARDY

Ancient stories

Fran Hardy “saw an incredible tree in Truchas, New Mexico” and knew she had to draw and paint it as part of her ongoing tree series, a series she knows will be a lifelong project.

Hardy’s first solo exhibition at Evoke Contemporary is titled *Ancient Stories*. These works blur the distinctions between realist and abstract as well as between ancient and contemporary.

“I have brought together my love of drawing, printmaking, and painting into an eclectic approach incorporating diverse media, all of which are bound by my common interest in symbols that reappear throughout histories and cultures, sculptural forms in nature, and what civilizations leave behind for the contemporary world to interpret,” says Hardy.

Truchas is a large drawing (48 by 60 inches) of that incredible tree, heavily

pruned by the local utility company and sprouting new growth with a vengeance. The drawing is graphite on an acrylic ground.

Truchas is a straightforward drawing, isolating the subject against the neutral ground. Whereas most passersby would ignore the gnarly tree, Hardy’s drawing forces a confrontation or, at least, recognition. She is acutely aware of nature and mankind’s impact upon it, its resiliency, and the infinite variety of its beauty.

“I enjoy the meticulous, exquisite depiction of nature paired with the abstract exploration of various media, luminous surfaces, and the interaction of colors to express emotional content,” says Hardy. “The tree series is about surviving. Despite what they have thrown at them, they still come back. I have done drawings of trees contorted

by the wind on Kitchen Mesa that look as if they must be dead. But there will be a small sprig of green.”

All of Hardy’s work is bound together by this profound love of nature.

“Oftentimes beauty is not considered political but it is very political in the sense that it demands that we look closely at what we can lose if we do not acknowledge what is precious in our connection to the natural world.”

Her complex images reflect a new level of letting go to vulnerability, allowing her vision to evolve in unexpected ways.

“It is helping me to come to terms with the fragility all living things encounter in the aging process,” she says. ●

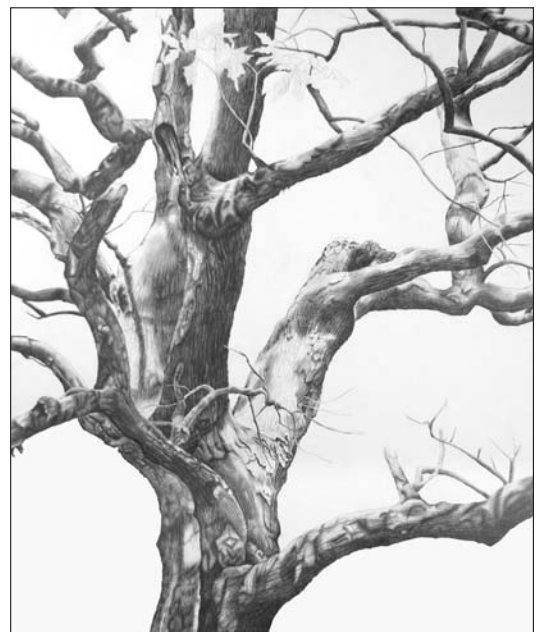
For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to



www.americanartcollector.com



ANNUNCIATION, MIXED MEDIA, 36 x 46"



KEYSTONE ANCIENT FOREST, GRAPHITE ON PANEL, 60 x 46"



TRUCHAS, GRAPHITE ON PANEL, 48 X 60"



KITCHEN MESA, ACRYLIC AND GRAPHITE ON PANEL, 46 X 60"