

THE DRAWING ROOM 16R Newtown Lane, East Hampton, NY 11937 631.324.5016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 2005

JILL MUSNICKI  
Invertebrates

From October 6 through November 13, 2005, The Drawing Room in East Hampton is pleased to present the first one-person exhibition on the East End for Jill Musnicki.

Jill Musnicki's small panels and larger oil paintings expand upon the exploration of bees and other insects that she began several years ago. Here she investigates jellyfish from remote corners of the world. Like her earlier paintings of insects that seem to hover, emerge and recede into the dark atmospheric grounds they are painted on, Musnicki's jellyfish are painted against rich blues and nearly black backgrounds. Her technique of working wet paint on wet produces diffused effects where figure and ground are nearly inseparable. This approach seems perfectly suited to evoke the translucency of the jellyfish body in motion, in some areas transparent and in others highlighted by striking reds and oranges against the marine water they inhabit. These surprisingly jewel-like paintings belie their stinging subjects and strike us as ravishing, fresh formal explorations of color, form and motion.

Her life-long preoccupation with the mysterious forms of the natural world is a constant thread that links the subjects of Musnicki's paintings of the last several years, depictions that range from cellular organisms to snakes, invertebrate animals and cloud studies. All of these subjects suggest the likely impact of the environment in which she was raised – the fields of Bridgehampton near where the sea and farmland converge. Descended from a family of farmers, Musnicki is an avid gardener herself, and recalls her childhood fascination with elements of nature that some might shy away from. Today her studio is filled with source material that includes drawers of dried insects, out-of-print encyclopedias and scientific literature mined for their intricate illustrations. Musnicki shares an affinity with the 19<sup>th</sup> century biologist and artist Ernst Haeckel (1834-1919), whose observation of undersea organisms spawned thousands of images of radiolarians, single cell creatures that Haeckel discovered, described and classified.

Trained at the Philadelphia College of Art where she received her BFA in 1989, Musnicki traveled extensively in India and Eastern Europe before returning to settle in the East End region. A resident of Sag Harbor, she has exhibited at venues in New York, Vermont and Europe, as well as Guild Hall Museum, Glenn Horowitz Bookseller and other galleries in the Hamptons.

For further information or reproductions, please contact Susan Papa at 631.324.5016 or [info@drawingroom-gallery.com](mailto:info@drawingroom-gallery.com).