



M.Y. ART PROSPECTS

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CAROLYN SIWSZCZ

SHELF LIFE

Sept. 7 – Oct. 14, 2006

Opening reception, Thurs., Sept 7, 6-9pm

Gallery hours: Tues. – Sat. 11am –6pm
Subway access: C, E, 23rd St.



Flowerama, 2006, monotype, ink, acrylic on paper, 19 x 41.5 in.

On Thursday, September 7, M.Y. ART PROSPECTS celebrates the opening of the second solo exhibition by **Carolyn Swiszc**. The exhibition, together with a Project Room show by Mickey Kerr, will be on view at the gallery (547 West 27th Street, New York City) through October 14.

For this exhibition entitled “**Shelf Life**,” the Minnesota-based painter/printmaker once again demonstrates her provocative take on strip mall stores and store window displays. The humble appeal of these barely surviving Midwest suburban stores inspires the artist to conduct detailed investigations into their materials and the designs of their displays. Swiszc explained it like this in one of her recent magazine interview:

“When I see these window displays my heart swells and I think, ‘Oh! They’re trying! Somebody tried their best with their time and resources.’ They actually made those decisions and ordered those signs and they had dreams about their business.”

While being faithful to her observation, Swiszc also applies hyper-real colors and patterns to the buildings and their surroundings, combining varied techniques of painting, drawing and printmaking. Swiszc’s dollhouse-like painted buildings cynically but affectionately crystallize the dreams and ambitions of middle class Americans for a better life. If the products these stores sell have a shelf life, shouldn’t the business itself? Swiszc seems to know the answer. “Ultimately I’d like things to stay the way they are, and since those places seemed doomed, I can at least preserve them in my work.”

Born and raised in New Bedford, MA, **Carolyn Swiszc** attended the Minneapolis College of Art and Design where she earned a BFA in 1994. Since 2000, her work has been the subject of numerous gallery and museum shows in Washington D.C., New York, Chicago, Miami, Boston, Fargo and her base, the Twin Cities. Her work has also been exhibited at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and the Drawing Center in New York. A 2002 recipient of the Bush Fellowship, Swiszc lives in St. Paul, MN. Her work is represented in the Microsoft Art Collection and at the Minnesota Historical Society, and was featured in *Art In America*, *Boston Globe*, *New American Paintings*, *NY Arts* and other publications. In 2003, Swiszc presented her solo show *Daydreaming is Free* at M.Y. ART PROSPECTS.

The exhibition will be held at 547 West 27th Street, bet. 10th and 11th Avenues, New York City. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11am to 6pm. For further information and/or photographic materials, please contact 212 268 7132 or e-mail info@myartprospects.com