

Wilderness House Literary Review 2/2

without leaves: The Story of Aparna

words by Aparna

as told to and arranged

by pam rosenblatt

paintings, drawings, work on paper,

mixed media sculptures.

different mediums.

the work all

inside of me

waiting to come out

light the atmosphere

in the meadows of the dairy country

out in the fields

infused with sunlight wind

and quiet.

over the years

my appreciation for natural life

changed

with

a natural science background

from college. and as

an adult,

now,

a naturalist

of sorts,

poking around

in the

rainforest where

often hotter than

95 degrees

with rain,

fast flowing streams,
wildlife,
and bird life.

with wasps' nests
and their larvae;
various ants homesteading
and mating rituals;
predator insects

and how they get
their dinner;

African bees,
their amazing
productivity.

my son and i
capture all sorts of bugs

look

magnify

draw them

trying to

understand

how they live,

why they

do

what they do.

snakes

monkeys

frogs

turtles,

all a part

of each day,

every moment's

existence.

that

has

changed

me

over

20

years,

a

serious observer

of natural life

around me.

of what's going on.

keep it

inside me

to work with

it later

may not even be

a conscious

choice,

emerges at some point,

from this

play.

an ancient dictionary,

images

of moths, insects larvae

Pods cocoons.

symbols shapes

in my paintings

before so i was

naturally attracted

to these dictionary pages.

it's about handling

materials, not only

what

i make with them.

in this case,

oil ink

collage beeswax

tissue paper cotton

and also about

drawn forms,

some three dimensional.

i'm a sculptor and

people say

my paintings

also feel sculptural.

the way

i handle paint,

moving it

around,

making it a relief

a revealing

brushstroke

the paintings are also

about the body,

especially that one,

where the body of a
larvae
becomes the body of a moth,
but
has the feeling
of a body
of humans.

this one is
called "Noctilucent".

repetition of
drawing form,
translucence ,
change

in certain places,
the paint is thick
in other places

it's

thin

translucent.

and

things are

built up

on the

surface

like those cocoons,

it's how i see

myself

in the

world

full

of something,

full

of energy,

full

of excitement,

full of

myself, perhaps.

and other times,

i'm blending

in with the landscape

becoming

part of the landscape.

being

in the

natural world

gives me ideas

i work with them

in a furious

excited energetic way.

i 'm building

upon what already

exists in nature.

and other times

i'm just

sitting there

on a rock

or in the river

just being

Nothing,

blending in

the water flowing,

air

wind

vibrating --

you know --

kind of

translucence.

i mimic

the way of the natural world,

translucent

or dimensional....

i collect

seapods.

i make

drawings

from books

from observations

then

i transpose

them.

manipulate,

through

collecting,

looking,

drawing,

or abstracting,

i make

images

that appeal to

me.

- pam rosenblatt