

**Stony Brook University**

**M.F.A. Thesis Exhibition**

**2008**

**February 27 - March 29**

**Amy Marinelli**

**Ha Na Lee**

**K.M**

**Lorena Salcedo-Watson**

**what  
we  
wished  
for**

University Art Gallery, Staller Center for the Arts, Stony Brook University


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## 2008



### INTRODUCTION

This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the MFA Thesis Exhibition and the 23<sup>rd</sup> year since the MFA program was established at Stony Brook. The program has attracted top students from all over the United States, Latin America, Europe, and Asia. Our students have sought out and benefited from a program that encourages dynamic interaction between the artists and the art historians/critics of our department enrolled in the MA/PhD program. The Art Department is unusual in providing this type of close collaboration between traditionally diverse practices. Nowhere else are advanced studio and art history and criticism students able to benefit from each other's courses and ideas.

The Master of Fine Arts at Stony Brook is a unique three-year, sixty-hour terminal professional degree that is designed to maintain a small enrollment (we allow no more than twenty candidates in residence) and to encourage considerable interaction with our professional faculty and their many important contacts in the New York City art world. We are uniquely situated geographically, close enough to NYC and its fabulous museums, galleries, studios, and other cultural venues to make recurrent visits easy, yet sufficiently distant to enjoy insulation from the density and pressures of the City. In the relative peace provided by the suburban, even rural, environment of Long Island's North Shore, our graduate students are able to focus on their work in their recently rebuilt studios on campus. Additionally, we have the advantage of being part of

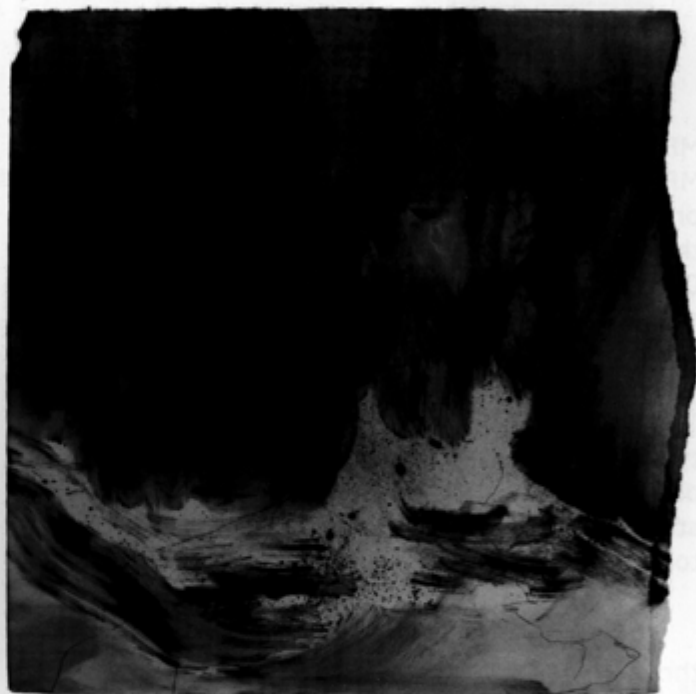
a large, renowned research university with centers not only in Stony Brook itself but also in Manhattan and in Southampton, close to the historic Pollock-Krasner House and Study Center administered by the Art Department. We benefit from associate faculty from Philosophy, History, Women's Studies, the Humanities Institute, and Cinema and Cultural Studies. Faculty in these areas are readily available to our MFA candidates, who are required to take nine credits of liberal arts and to write a thesis in connection with their one-person exhibitions in the MFA Gallery. Students have profited from material, practical, and intellectual assistance from other departments at Stony Brook. They have blown glass with the chemists, studied metallurgy with the engineers, done theatre design in Theatre Arts, studied computer science with that department, optics in Physics, anatomical illustration with faculty from the medical school, and so on.

University Art Gallery Director Rhonda Cooper deserves a heartfelt thanks for her energy, competence, efficiency, and design sense in staging these often challenging exhibitions by our graduating MFA students. The success of our students is readily apparent in the 2008 MFA exhibition, and we are proud of each of them.

Anita Moskowitz  
Chairperson  
Department of Art

# AMY MARINELLI

in my house  
it is early in the morning in  
the garden of simple  
    you you jus  
    one day      put it all down  
    the big plan be to  
keep on      what i means  
            mean i be thinking  
    of you all along



*untitled, 2007*  
Graphite and charcoal on paper, 22 x 22"



# HA NA LEE

The subject of my work is inspired by the individual's fragile experiences — physical and psychological traumas that often appear as sequential images in an unconventional narrative form. The story consists of intimate interactions and the relationship between a female body and such symbolic objects as fruit, oysters, ants, needles, etc. In this way, at least for my recent video work, mundane objects are symbolically loaded with the theme of vanitas, the sense of melancholy and death and the repression of female sexuality in the context of the contemporary world. When these objects are juxtaposed, my work creates the sense of a repulsive and attractive visual quality that evokes psychological images that linger in the viewer's memory. My stories don't need to be interpreted but, rather, intuitively absorbed.



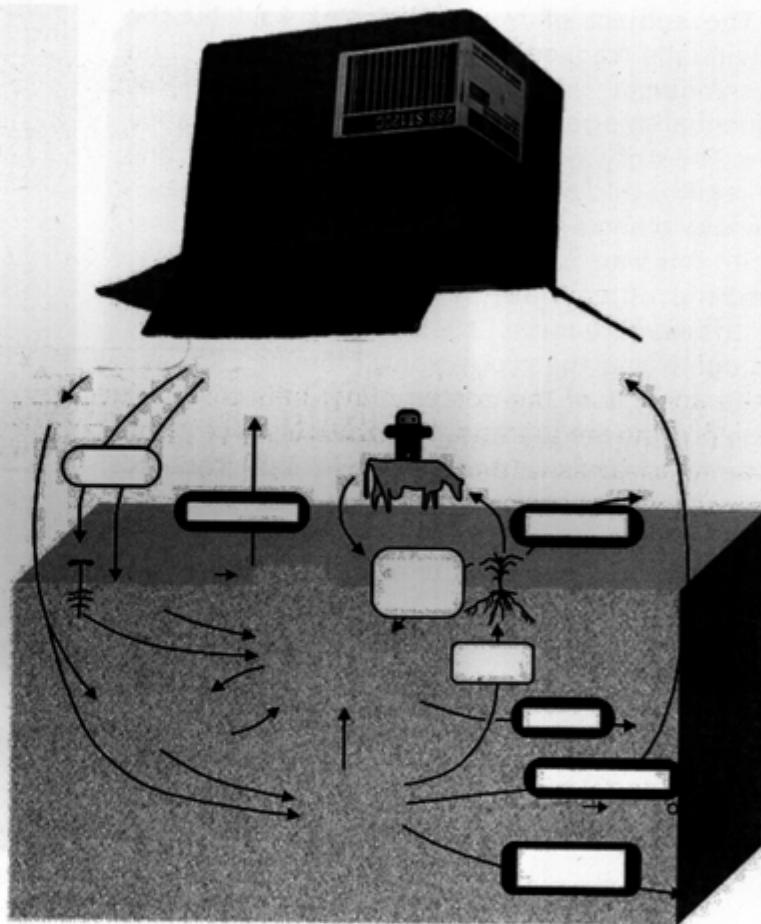
*ABRASION*, 2007  
Film still, 11min.28sec.

# K.M

Please, help yourself

Steal this exhibition

Please, help me



## LORENA SALCEDO-WATSON

My work examines our perceptions of the natural world and our experience within it, focusing on relationships between life forms, their morphologies, and the essence of their living energy.

Based on a fascination with botany, entomology, and human anatomy, I develop imaginary "realities" informed by natural and anatomical references. These forms and internal landscapes transform and reinterpret aspects of nature, filtering through personal experience, observation, and imagination. I am interested in nature's continual renewal and redefinition of form, space, and identity. I want to interpret physical sensations, making them palpable in the context of these envisioned topographies. My work seeks to evoke unconscious associations with the natural world, eliciting aspects of nature which can be visually seductive as well as deeply uncomfortable. Physical spaces evolve into psychological spaces. Forms transcend familiar origins, crossing species and realms, becoming identifiable in completely different contexts.



*Physalis*, 2007

Charcoal and watercolor on paper, 54 1/2 x 42 1/2"



CENTER FOR THE ARTS



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I want to express my gratitude to Professor Anita Moskowitz, Chair of the Department of Art; Associate Professor Barbara Frank, Director of Graduate Studies; Associate Professor Stephanie Dinkins, MFA Program Director; and Professor Howardena Pindell, Exhibition Coordinator, for their assistance with this exhibition.

The 2007-2008 University Art Gallery exhibition schedule is made possible by a generous donation from the Paul W. Zuccaire Foundation. Additional funding for this exhibition has been provided by the Friends of Staller Center. We are extremely grateful to our sponsors for helping us present our exhibitions to our students and faculty as well as to the local and regional community.

I also want to express my appreciation to members of the Staller Center for the Arts staff: Fumito Hiraoka, Pat Moran, Pete Pantaleo, Christian Routh, and Michelle Wacker for exhibition assistance; Amy Marinelli and Harry Weil, Curatorial Assistants; Kristen Boddy, Leanne Bruno, Rodney Chan, Matthew Flewelling, Christa Leeman, Joseph Weinstein, and Lauren Williams, Gallery Interns; Allison Conley and Kabir Dehqanzada, Gallery Assistants; Liz Silver, Staller Center Production Manager, Liz Lamendola, Technical Director, and the Staller Center Technical Crew for exhibition lighting; Amanda Meyers, Staller Center Director of Advancement, for Gallery fundraising; and Barbara Schimmenti, Gallery Secretary.

Most of all, I wish to thank Yana K.M, Ha Na Lee, Amy Marinelli, and Lorena Salcedo-Watson for a very exciting MFA exhibition.

Rhonda Cooper  
Director

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[www.stallercenter.com](http://www.stallercenter.com)

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