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PRESS RELEASE: For immediate release

The Watchung Arts Center announces its opening exhibit of the 2022/2023 season:

Mona Brody - Portals, Apparitions, and Other Voices.

Curated by PE Pinkman In the Heinz W. Otto gallery on the second floor

Dates: September 16 – October 21, 2023

Artists Reception: Saturday September 23, 6 to 8pm Free and open to the public There will be an artists' talk on Saturday, October 7 from 3 to 4:15 pm

Location: Watchung Arts Center, 18 Stirling Rd, Watchung, NJ 07069 Ground floor gallery is barrier free, and the upstairs gallery can be accessed by a chair lift. max 200 lbs

Hours: Tuesday and Thursdays 11 - 1pm , Saturdays 11am – 1pm and by appointment (Sat. call before arriving @ 908-753-0190)

Mona Brody - Portals, Apparitions, and Other Voices.

Mona Brody, an accomplished and renown artist has shown her work both nationally and internationally. Her art can be found in public collections such as the Museum of Modern Art Library, New York; the Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, NJ; New Jersey State Museum, Trenton. Brody's honors and fellowships include a 2023 Artist Residency Diderot Award, Chateau d'Orquevaux, France; Rutgers Center for Innovative Print and Paper, Rutgers State University, New Brunswick, NJ; Geraldine Dodge Foundation Artist Fellowships among others.

Brody says of her work, "Through the process of working, reworking, layering, and subtracting, I attempt to locate a specific but unnamable place with its own rules that surprises me." The artist's work explores the relationship between nature, the human condition, and uncertainty. Her paintings are often mysterious and unsettling, but they are not meant to be straightforward declarations of abstract art. Instead, they are a fusion of different emotions, filled with empathy and imagination. The artist uses alternative painting tools and materials, including handmade oil paints, pigmented shellac, and enamel, to challenge the traditional approach to painting.

This exhibition will be held in combination with the work of **Anne Trauben: Step Up on a Stool to Reach the Sky** which will be in the downstairs gallery at the Center. Also, a special multimedia performance of live piano and film, "**The Mischlinge Exposé**" by Carolyn Enger will be held on Sunday, October 15 at 3pm. Go to <u>https://watchungarts.org</u> for ticket information.

About the Curator:

PE Pinkman is an artist and curator whose works have been shown throughout metropolitan New York and New Jersey. He is currently working as the Executive Director of the Watchung Arts Center, one of whose responsibilities includes bringing the works of outstanding and underrepresented area artists to local audiences. He has curated numerous exhibits both here and in many other venues in the last 35 years.



Mona Brody "Escape" oil, pigmented shellac, wax on linen 60 x 48 inches 2023



Mona Brody "Getting Answers" oil, pigmented shellac, wax on linen 60 x 48 inches 2022



Mona Brody with "Other Voices"



Mona Brody "Other Voices" oil, pigmented shellac, wax on linen 55 x 72 inches 2023

For more information and additional images available upon request: PE Pinkman at <u>wacenter@optonline.net</u> or 908-753-0190

The Watchung Arts Center *is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization that promotes the performing and visual arts along with arts education for children and teens. We are dedicated to supporting and promoting performing and visual artists and arts education. The Center also has ongoing yoga classes available. Please visit our website at www.watchungarts.org for more information.*