

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 22, 2013

Inman Gallery is pleased to present
the exhibitions:

**Farewell Ruins:
Julia Haft-Candell and
Julia Kunin**

And in the south gallery:

Beth Secor: Trees

February 22 – March 30, 2013

Opening Reception:
Friday February 22nd 6 – 8 pm

Gallery hours:
Tues. – Sat., 11 – 6 and by appointment



Left: Julia Kunin, *Promontory Scholar's Rock*, 2013; glazed earthenware; 20 x 6 ½ x 7 inches; *Right:* Julia Haft-Candell, *Charlie* (detail), 2012; porcelain, terra cotta, glaze, epoxy resin, silk, linen, thread, steel, wire, wood, bleach, gouache; 60 x 30 x 19 ½ inches

Inman Gallery is pleased to announce two new exhibitions: **Farewell Ruins: Julia Haft-Candell and Julia Kunin**, and, in the south gallery, **Beth Secor: Trees**. Both exhibitions open Friday, February 22 with a reception for the artists from 6 to 8 pm, and continue on view until March 30, 2013. This exhibition marks each Julia Haft-Candell's and Julia Kunin's second group exhibition at Inman Gallery. *Trees* will be Secor's sixth solo exhibition with the gallery. *Farewell Ruins* was organized to coincide with the 2013 NCECA (National Conference on Education for the Ceramic Arts) Conference, March 20-23, in Houston.

Farewell Ruins brings together the ceramic work of Julia Haft-Candell and Julia Kunin. Both artists use clay-based materials to produce extraordinary sculptural assemblages. Following disorderly systems of aggregation and construction, Haft-Candell and Kunin transform the most earthly matter into autonomous otherworldly architectures. Their precarious and wondrous objects evoke biological, geological, and cosmological narratives of formation.

Julia Haft-Candell's typically floor-bound works are a bricolage of hand-painted porcelain fragments, fabric surfaces, and structuring wire and rebar (not to mention thread, wood, and epoxy resin). Each multipart composition is equally an act of drawing, painting, and sculpture. Haft-Candell builds linear forms to articulate frameworks and contours; she correlates and contrasts colorful glazes, paints, and fabrics; and she balances and supports elements against gravity. As each form is resolved—often involving and incorporating accidents—it gathers metaphoric connotations. On display here are architectures gone astray (*Baluster*, 2012), off-kilter figures (*Rebecca*, 2012), and surreal, mysterious bodies and landscapes (*Elbow*, 2012).

Similarly, **Julia Kunin's** recent sculptures amass ceramic replicas of natural forms, such as insects, shells, and sponges, into excessive anthropomorphic landscapes-in-miniature. Kunin produced the simplified scholar's rock vases and cairn-like statuary here as part of a three-year collaboration with the Zsolany porcelain factory in Pécs, Hungary. She forms each work by casting found stones from a 15th

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century Hungarian monastery in ceramic, often aggregating these casts into a single object that she then finishes with Zsolany's eosin glaze, a company secret that dates back to the Art Nouveau period. The resulting psychedelic iridescent luster accents the surface detail of her craggy forms, reanimating seemingly inert nature as a dynamic hallucinatory spectacle.

Julia Haft-Candell lives in Los Angeles. She received an MFA from Cal State Long Beach (2010) and her BFA from UC Davis (2005). Her recent exhibitions include solo shows at ACME. Gallery, Los Angeles, CA (2013 and 2011); as well as the group exhibitions *Paper Space*, Inman Gallery, Houston (2012); and *Mind Over Matter*, Muelensteen Gallery, New York, NY. She teaches at Scripps College, Claremont, CA, where she is the Lincoln Visiting Artist in Ceramics. Haft-Candell's work was featured in an article on contemporary ceramics in Los Angeles in the December 2012 issue of *Art In America*.

Julia Kunin lives in Brooklyn, NY. She received an MFA from Rutgers University (1993) and a BA from Wellesley College (1984). Her recent exhibitions include solo shows at Barry Whistler Gallery, Dallas (2013), Greenberg Van Doren Gallery, New York, NY (2012) and the Deutches Leder Museum, Offenbach, Germany (2002), and the group shows *Paul Clay*, Salon 94 Bowery, New York, NY, and *Salt Peanuts*, Inman Gallery, Houston (2008). Kunin is the recipient of a Pollack-Krasner Foundation Grant (2008) and the John Michael Kohler Arts/Industry Residency, Sheboygan, WI (2007). She is currently in Hungary on a Fulbright Fellowship.



Beth Secor, *Oak Tree, Summer After the Drought 2012, 2012*; gouache, ink and pencil; 20 x 16 in.

In the south gallery, **Beth Secor's** *Trees* comprises a recent series of works on paper depicting individual specimens of Southeast Texas trees. Secor began the four paintings and three drawings displayed here in the summer of 2011, when her father's health began to fail and she moved him to a nursing home in Wharton, Texas, not far from where she grew up. During visits with her father, Secor would sit with him and look at the nearby oak, pecan, magnolia, locust, yew, and cypress trees similar to those she has known her entire life.

Secor understands trees as both a comforting peripheral constant, and also as singular and living, if not sentient beings that also endure the travails of existence, including sickness. Accordingly, she renders each of her sylvan subjects in a manner similar to her previous portrait works, with patient accumulations of abbreviated, sinewy, and colorful line, here using gouache, ink, white out, and pencil. The resulting images are at once meditative artistic studies and impressionistic landscapes—empathetic documents of time passing.

Beth Secor lives in Houston. She received an MFA (1989) and a BFA (1980) from the University of Houston. Secor participated in Round 36 (2012) at Project Row Houses with the installation "Blue Print For Heaven". Other recent exhibitions include *Material Evidence*, Neidorf Gallery, Trinity University, San Antonio (2011); and solo exhibitions at Inman Gallery, Houston (2009 and 2006), and Museo De Ciudad de Queretaro, Mexico (2006). Secor is an adjunct professor in art at the University of Houston Downtown (UHD) and Houston Community College Central. She is a regular contributor to Glasstire.com and writes grants for the Art League Houston. Secor recently developed a "Writing for the Arts" course for UHD, which is the first such course offered at the school.

Special Gallery Event: Saturday, February 23rd, 1 pm

Please join us as artists Julia Haft-Candell and Beth Secor lead a walkthrough of their individual work in the exhibitions *Farewell Ruins* and *Trees*.

For more information, please contact the gallery at 713.526.7800 or info@inmangallery.com