



Nature's power and glory



1
Karen Blackwood,
Sunrise, oil on canvas,
18 x 36"

2
Rick Fleury, *Tracings II*,
oil on canvas,
32 x 46 x 1½"

3
David Bareford,
*American's Cup Jubilee
Regatta*, oil on canvas,
24 x 48"

4
Katherine B. Young,
Open Ocean XXI, graphite
on paper, 20 x 28"

1

The sea has a variety of emotions, from calm and serene to thunderous and destructive. These sentiments are challenging to capture truthfully, but The Gallery at Tree's Place will celebrate four artists who focus on just that.

"[The] *Nature's Power and Glory* exhibition will be a wonderful display featuring several resident Tree's seascape artists. **Karen Blackwood**, **David Bareford**, **Rick Fleury**, and **Katherine B. Young** each demonstrate a unique interpretation of the power and glory of nature. Their ability to capture both the intensity and serenity of the sea and its horizons is something to behold," says Michael Donovan, owner of The Gallery at Tree's Place.

Always having been drawn to the forces of nature, Blackwood focuses more on the ocean, and since her move to the East Coast, she has the luxury of visiting the ocean constantly and seeing it in all its moods.

"I am busy capturing the dynamic motion of waves and water and specifically the opposing forces as the crashing surf meets the rocks and land," she explains. "I strive to capture its poetic beauty, which expresses the feel and sense of that great



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volume and power.

"[*Sunrise*] expresses that moment just before the rising sun spills a bright red, scarlet light across the sky. It is the climax to its morning song. The joy of a new day," she adds.

Like Blackwood, Bareford uses his own experiences for his paintings, whether it is the way light falls on a sail or the color of the shadowed side of a building, or even the changing sky.

"I plan to incorporate some dramatic sky



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4

effects into my compositions,” Bareford says of the pieces he will have in *Nature’s Power and Glory*. “There are few things in a landscape that grab our attention as forcefully as a dramatic sky. In a similar fashion, I’ll show the power of wind by its effect on water and the way the boats are positioned. The tilt of the mast, a large volume of spray both tell the viewer that there’s a significant wing blowing.”

Also included in the show is a series of

large-scale graphite drawings of the ocean surface by Young, a subject the artist is quite familiar with as she crewed on an open ocean sail for three weeks as a young adult.

“It is impossible to describe with words the feeling of being surrounded by ocean on all sides, hundreds of miles from civilization,” she says. “It can be an incredibly powerful place—vast, awe-inspiring—and one can imagine one is surrounded by infinity.”

“These drawings hint at the ideas of vastness and spaciousness in an atmosphere of both simplicity and complexity, using the most simple of materials to create a highly complex surface,” she adds of her *Open Ocean* series. “The process of creating them is a meditative one, and they are meant to evoke an infinite, contemplative space. The graphite also has a reflective quality, which helps in creating this contemplative space.”

In *Tracings*, a series of paintings by Fleury, a palette knife was used to pull light lines of paint across the horizon and again in the land and waters below.

“Tracings of paint that seemed to add distance and depth to the piece with a slightness of line and a minimal, contemporary feel,” he explains. “I’d used the technique before, but not with the intent and conviction I focused on in these latest works.”

“I am becoming less specific and more atmospheric—reaching for that calming sense of light and space, and the vastness of it all,” he continues. “Ever inspired by the coast, I am always looking for new and interesting ways to capture its beauty, and push to find new ways in terms of palette and brushstroke, content and emotion.”

Nature’s Power and Glory will have around 20 to 25 new works on display from June 4 through 17, with an artist reception June 4 from 5 to 7 p.m. ●