

Columbus Museum
Columbus, Georgia

NEW DIRECTIONS

IN AMERICAN DRAWING

AMY MYERS

Quantum mechanics and string theory serve as the inspiration for Amy Myers' lyrical mixed-media drawings. The daughter of a particle physicist, she discovered an early fascination with the complexities of the universe and turned to large-scale drawings as an ideal outlet for expressing her meditations on this theme in pictorial form. The artist's scientific knowledge serves not as a strict blueprint, but as a wellspring from which she extracts imagery intuitively as each drawing unfolds. Heavy sheets of gray or black printmaking paper provide smooth, uniform surfaces for her delicate compositions. Each suggests a vast portal through which her otherworldly subject matter appears suspended in a void. The sheets are also sufficiently thick to withstand her rigorous process of adding and sanding away drawn imagery until the desired composition is achieved.

Although resembling organic abstraction, Myers' technique is not intended to remove legibility but to represent, in her own formal language, vital parts of the natural world normally beyond the grasp of the human eye. In *Scrim of Quarks on Top*, the artist offers her evocative interpretation of elusive subatomic particles regarded by modern science as building blocks of the universe. The composition features an undulating vertical axis surrounded by networks of complex curving lines and delicately shaded passages. Abstract at first glance, the marks coalesce to suggest organic structures such as ribs, cells, gills, cavities, veins and membranes. *Scrim of Quarks on Top* also represents a new stage in Myers' mark-making vocabulary. Subtle gradations of tone, veils of prismatic color, blurred edges and serpentine lines of varying intensity provide greater depth and animate her compositions with a rotational movement largely absent in earlier works. These qualities enable her latest drawings to serve as dynamic visions of subatomic realms in their eternal state of flux.

SCW

Amy Myers
Scrim of Quarks on Top, 2006
Graphite, soft pastel, dry pigment and conté on paper
88 x 60 inches
Courtesy of Mike Weiss Gallery, New York

