A Mysterious Clarity is an exhibition about nature. Featuring the paintings of three artists who live and work in Florida, A Mysterious Clarity explores a range of impressions inspired by the complexities of our natural environment. We are taken to landscapes of solace and beauty, ferocity and destruction. Our expectations of how nature should appear in representation are challenged. Recognizable shapes melt into abstraction. Abstractions somehow begin to take form.

Ray Burggraf, Mark Messersmith, and Lilian Garcia-Roig each came to Florida to teach painting in the art department at Florida State University in Tallahassee and for each the

subject of the Florida landscape has since become central to their work. Their

approaches—both in their aesthetics and in their process—however, differ radically. When exhibited together, the works of Burggraf, Messersmith and Garcia-Roig, though so outwardly diverse, begin to interact. Colors and shapes intermingle, drawing the viewer from one painting to another. New patterns and textures begin to emerge. The result is, as the artists have termed it, "A Mysterious Clarity", where we can begin to see beyond the limits of our own expectations.

Ray Burggraf arrived at Florida State University in 1970 from California, where he earned his MA and MFA from the University of California, Berkeley. In his nearly sculptural paintings, which he creates on wood boards he shapes into biomorphic forms, the



Ray Burggraf, Jungle Arc, 1998

threat of human encroachment looms darkly. The already precarious balances of these unstable environments begin to unfold.

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Lilian Garcia-Roig came to Florida State in 2001 from University of Texas, Austin where she was a tenured professor. She earned her MFA from the University of Pennsylvania in 1990. Her majestic, large-scale canvases painted on site in the forest, feature massive tree trunks, foliage in all shade of green, and dense weaves of branches. Up close, however, her compositions dissolve into surface detail. The woods are abstracted into brilliant patterns and shapes that engage the viewer on the canvas's surface as intensely as the painting's subject matter.

landscape emerges as an underlying theme. Yet the landscapes are abstractions, impressions of color applied in graduated layers with seamless precision to the surface geometries of his wood forms. Yet in spite of the seemingly obscure relationship between the landscape and its representation in his work, nature's essential elements remain visible. Burggraf's structures are suggestive of forms found in nature, his colors remind us of atmospheric light—but do not mimic them.

Mark Messersmith began teaching at Florida State in 1985, having earned his MFA at the University of Indiana in Bloomington. In Messersmith's vision virile beasts engage in struggles to the death, majestic birds feast amidst murky swamps, gators writhe between cypress roots, and all



Lilian Garcia-Roig, Serpentine Nature, 2007



Mark Messersmith, Verpertine Sacrafice, 2006

ysterious Clarity



Gallery Guide

Ray Burggraf

Afterglow II, 2005 acrylic on wood 66 x 69 inches

Fresh Breeze ,2006 acrylic on wood 32 x 84 inches

Three Months of Sunsets I 2004 acrylic on wood 38 x 59 inches

Dragon Breath, 2000 acrylic on wood 77 x 78 inches

In Search of Fresh Air, alias Dead Blue Parrot, 2001 acrylic on wood 42 x 128 inches

The Queen, 1988 acrylic on wood 97 x 30 inches

Jungle Arc, 1998 acrylic on wood 53 x 58 inches

Light Struck Stagger, 1995 acrylic on wood 44 x 12 x 57 inches

Lilian Garcia-Roig

Fall Paths, 2007 oil on canvas 60 x 144 inches (3 panels)

Stained Glass Woods, 2007 oil on canvas 48 x 132 inches (3 panels)

St. Mark's Triptych (Fallen Tree, Charred Gateway, Fan Palm), 2005 oil on canvas 48 x 36 inches (3 panels)

Cadmium Carnival, 2006 oil on canvas 48 x 36 inches

Fluttery Maple Leaves, 2005 oil on canvas 48 x 36 inches

Serpentine Nature, 2007 oil on canvas 48 x 108 inches

MacDowell Pines, 2007 oil on canvas 48 x 36 inches

St. Marks Inlet, 2007 oil on canvas 40 x 30 inches

Mark Messersmith

Summer Solstice Morning, 2007 oil on canvas 84 x 72 inches

Strange Matters, 2007 oil on canvas 84 x 72 inches

Moonlight on the Wacissa, 2007 oil on canvas 82 x 67 inches

Vespertine Sacrifice, 2006 oil on canvas 80 x 72 inches

Paradise of Sacrifice, 2007 oil on canvas 84 x 72 inches

Wolfish Nature, 2007 oil on canvas 75 x 72 inches

Southeraire, 2001 oil on canvas 80 x 67 inches

The Collectors, 2007 oil on canvas 87 x 82 inches





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