

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Long View Gallery Presents **“Revive”** by Michelle Peterson-Albandoz

Discarded wood – reclaimed, recycled and repurposed – revived into art, both visually powerful and environmentally significant.



Untitled Wood Construction in Black, 108” x 72”, wood construction

Show Dates: March 31 – May 1

Opening Reception: Thursday, March 31, 6:30-8:30pm

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Long View Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibit by Chicago-based artist **Michelle Peterson-Albandoz**, titled *“Revive.”* An accomplished painter and mixed-media artist, Michelle Peterson-Albandoz is well known for her unique use of reclaimed wood. Using discarded wood found in and around her Chicago neighborhood, she creates both constructions on panels and sculptures.

Michelle Albandoz-Peterson grew up surrounded by forests in both Connecticut and Puerto Rico, and found a connection to them that has lasted throughout her creative career. Experiencing first-hand the pristine quality and balance of these ecosystems made her hyper aware of the effect humans have on the environment outside of those woods. Now having lived in Chicago for nearly twenty years, Albandoz-Peterson has been surrounded by a constantly changing urban landscape, full of both destruction and construction. Historic but decrepit wood buildings were pulled down like trees in logging sites and their planks and beams were systematically dumped into landfills, rotting in piles. Her artwork benefited from a visceral response to this waste. She began collecting heaps of the discarded wood and turning them into the basis of her artistic process today.

Albandoz-Peterson sees her creative process as a kind of reversal of time and waste. The backwards journey begins with the gathering of discarded wooden planks from lots, alleys and dumpsters. She says, “I remove the nails, erasing the man-made elements that bound the wood together – stripping, sawing and cutting the wood pieces, reducing them further away from structural forms.” Sorting them to like-colors and textures helps her stay open to rhythm and patterns during the building of the work. Layers of old wood still containing the cracked paint and rusty nail holes begin to build up like a living tree once more. It is at the same time a reminder of the tree that once grew in the forest, the harvesting and manipulating of it into architectural structures and the ultimate rebirth as an aesthetic object.

According to Peterson-Albandoz, “I deeply believe that nature is the universal connection that binds all of us together. Because this connection has been weakened through a lack of awareness, we are experiencing losses that are impossible to measure. Throughout the globe and across all cultures these losses will only become greater if we do not begin reconnecting to nature in a more conscious and direct way. With a minimalist set of aesthetics, the viewer can meditate on the wood without being distracted by an imposed narrative. This allows the viewers to create their own personal relationship with the materials and at least for a moment, feel a deeper connection to nature. In this way, I hope to help shift the tides of our collective cultural awareness towards a more environmentally sensitive society.”

About the Gallery

Reopened in October 2009 as an art and event space, Long View Gallery concurrently highlights the talent of Washington-based artists and operates as a premiere venue for private functions. The gallery exhibits contemporary painting by both mid-career and emerging artists, but has recently launched a corporate art consultancy branch whose diverse portfolio runs the gamut of abstract sculpture to photography. Long View Gallery additionally offers design consultations to both individual and corporate clients, as well as an in-house custom framing service. In summer 2010, the gallery unveiled an outdoor sculpture courtyard that faces historic Blagden Alley.

Gallery Contact

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