



Gensler Exhibition: Spring 2017
Elemental: A Solo Exhibition by Hillevi Baar
March 2017 - June 2017

Is an artist the sole creator of their work, or merely a facilitator, assisting their medium of choice to reside in its intended and natural state? This thought-provoking question is posed by Houston-based artist Hillevi Baar in her solo exhibition *Elemental* on view at Gensler. The artist's active interplay with her commonly used medium of Mylar explores variations in form, often derived from interactions observed between wind, water, plant life and shadow play.

Baar's skill for enticing Mylar to realize its inherent potential is particularly evident in *Float*, a site-specific installation created for Gensler's reception. This elegant suspended sculpture investigates the artist's creative practice as a balance between meticulous strategizing and spontaneous on-site manipulation in response to the environment. She began creating this piece by carefully scoring the Mylar to intentionally mimic the linear forms throughout Gensler's space. To the artist, the incisions release the Mylar from its original boundaries, liberating the medium's natural malleability and enabling it to breathe. At the time of installation, Baar sought to contrast the crisp surrounding space by suspending the Mylar sheets to organically assume a cloud-like form.

References to nature are also visible in *Wild Flowers*, a wave-like form installed along the Conference Corridor, which is comprised of Mylar and steel pins resembling delicate branches. These complex elements seem to grow from the wall, fusing into one fluid shape that gently sways with the flow of foot traffic. Slight movements expose individualized drawings hidden between intricate layers. This interactive component allows the viewer to experience the piece in its entirety, while also inviting the study of each self-contained drawing. Conversely, *Unraveled*, in the Coffee Corridor, beckons the viewer to quietly approach the finely cut and tapering suspended Mylar sheet to fully experience the highly detailed graphite drawings within.

In the abstracted rose-like form *American Beauty*, exhibited within the executive corridor, Baar loosely interprets nature with the use of sprawling shapes and bold color. She further manipulates the exploration of dimensionality through plotted hand-painted shadows in the cluster of works titled *5 O'Clock Shadow*. Through these studies of form, shape and color, Baar encourages the viewer to draw their own narrative about the individualized works. In this way the viewer is free to read the exhibition without the influence of authoritative concept or rhetoric thereby retaining the mystery and inherent beauty of her organic nature interpretations.

Elemental was organized by Kinzelman Art Consulting on behalf of Gensler. For additional information about the exhibition, please call Kinzelman Art Consulting at 713-533-9923 or visit www.kinzelmanart.com.