KATHRYN MARKEL

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MARILLA PALMER
Recent Works

June 23th – July 10th 2016

NEW YORK, NY—June 15, 2015—Kathryn Markel Fine Arts is pleased to announce a new exhibition at our Bridgehampton Gallery, "Recent Works" by Marilla Palmer.

Marilla Palmer's mixed media works navigate the unexpected overlap of the organic and artifice. Dried flowers, foliage, and prints of spores are delicately combined with holographic paper, sequins, and wrappers to embellish renderings of found branches and plants. At first glance a celebration of the femininity of nature, upon closer inspection it's clear that Palmer is probing deeper. She selectively reveals the decay of her natural materials through the mask of her glamorous synthetics, questioning the power to fully transform through adornment. The worlds of the organic and inorganic - which are usually engaged in a battle for territory – come together to create a uniquely intimate portrait of Palmer's surroundings.

Tree Buds, 2016, mixed media on Arches paper, 22 x 30 in

The fragility of the embroidery and pressed flowers recalls the fragility of the nature that surrounds us all. The fact that nature is threatened by the very elements Palmer incorporates into her works creates an uneasy tension. Bits of what is essentially litter are transformed into an integral part of the image's allure; look closer and see that what was perceived as a flower petal is actually a candy wrapper in disguise. It should not belong, and yet it is easily, unexpectedly, accepted in this botanical imagery. The works are simultaneously outrageous and delicately beautiful, encouraging further examination and contemplation.

Marilla Palmer lives and works in Brooklyn, NY and has shown extensively throughout the United States. Her work has been exhibited at the Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Carlsbad Museum and Art Center, and PS1, among other galleries and institutions. She received her B.A from the Philadelphia College of Art.