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Chiyomi Taneike Longo, "White Passage #47," charcoal, acrylic, oil on panel #1 of triptych, 40 x 30"



Inner Landscape I-5 #2 Oil/collage on canvas 48" x 60"

Al Longo and Chiyomi Taneike Longo work individually, but their dialoguing works reflect the dynamic of a married couple. While each artist has exhibited alone and together in group shows, this is the first time exhibiting side by side. The show depicts the symbiotic world of creative soul mates who have painted together for 45 years. It is clear that they have profoundly influenced each other's spiritually oriented abstract works with strong references from nature, Japanese artistry and symbols. Chiyomi, working with charcoal, acrylics, sumi inks and oils, instills works with natural figures, particularly trees, and biomorphic forms. Each painting, including selections from the "White Passage" and "Seed of the Mind" series, has movement, some with multiple panels for each, telling stories of the passage of time, of musical arrangements and of the fusion of light and dark, yin and yang. Using a palette of blacks, grays and light colors, with soft black lines of charcoal and of strong black lines and large splotches from sumi ink, there is a strong presence of calligraphy. Al's paintings, mostly oils, with collage elements of Japanese wrapping paper, some on shaped canvasses, are more vividly colorful and masculine with bold, fluid shapes filling the canvasses. The abstract shapes are comfortable on the eye, influenced by natural elements seen through a microscope. "Inner Landscape I-5 #2," the boldest work here, is a large, vibrantly colored oil and collage of scenery along the I-5 freeway, abstractly depicting roads, trees, mountains and sky (Marion Meyer Contemporary Art, Laguna Beach).

Liz Goldner