

## ***Natural Habit***

Jim Banks and Leslie Zelamsky

July 3 – 28, 2019

First Friday Reception: July 5, 2019 | 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

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**BOSTON, MA** – Beginning July 3rd, Fountain Street Gallery will exhibit the work of Jim Banks and Leslie Zelamsky in “**Natural Habit**”. In this wide-ranging show of painting, sculpture, and installation, Banks and Zelamsky explore growth, decay, and renewal. The work ranges from Banks’ meticulously painted “footscapes” to Zelamsky’s sculptural strata made from common building materials. The artists give expression to nature’s elements and cycles by variously planting, painting, scraping, dripping, arranging, gluing, and layering. Viewers will see in each of their multi-faceted work both found and created beauty, reflected and constructed form.

It is the pursuit of an idea that excites **Jim Banks**. For this exhibit, he chooses an improbable subject—weeds. Over the past few years, Banks has been studying weeds, otherwise known as “wild urban plants”. He grows them. He paints them in remarkable detail. He photographs them. His exploration covers a lot of ground, so to speak. In bringing our attention to weeds through various materials, techniques, and imagery, Banks challenges us to look at, rather than look past, this ubiquitous and underappreciated element of our landscape.

Banks studied math and psychology at UCLA, then transferred to Bard College. There he discovered art and was home. He has shown in Honolulu, San Antonio, Memphis, and cities in the Boston area, including Cambridge, Lynn, and Provincetown. Awards include Best 3D Award at the Cambridge Art Association National Prize Show 2015 and 2nd in Show at the Boston Biennial, Atlantic Works Gallery in Boston, MA.

**Leslie Zelamsky's** sculptures and installations grow from methodically stacking building materials a piece at a time. One by one and layer after layer, the forms reveal themselves. These labor-intensive sculptures coexist with Zelamsky's intuitive paintings that are born out of the sheer delight of moving paint on a surface and receiving what shows up. These two vastly different processes merge in the artist's vision as expressions of chaos and cohesion, noise and solitude, intuition and deliberacy.

Zelamsky studied at the School of Art at Cooper Union, NY and the College of Art at Maryland Institute, MD. She was awarded the Patricia Robert Harris Fellowship and was named School 33 Art Center's (MD) Artist in Residence. Her work has been mentioned in *Confinements*, *Art Review*, and *Review*. Zelamsky has shown her sculptures and paintings *Driven to Abstraction* at The Umbrella, Concord, MA, *Art in Nature* at Fruitlands Museum, Harvard, MA, among other exhibitions. She works from her studio in Maynard, MA.

The Gallery is located at 460c Harrison Ave. #2, Boston, MA and is open Wednesday through Sunday from 12 to 6 pm, or by appointment.

**Schedule of events:**

First Friday Reception - July 5, 2019, 6:00-8:00 pm

Image information:

Left: Jim Banks, *Bittercress*, gouache on masonite (detail), 20 x 16 inches

Right: Leslie Zelamsky, *Point of Departure*, oil and mixed media on panel, 42 x 42 inches

Fountain Street, a resource for artists, art-lovers and collectors, is a contemporary gallery in Boston, MA that exhibits the artwork of twenty-eight emerging and mid-career artists.

Contact: Marie Craig (774) 286-1800

Fountain Street, 460c Harrison Ave. #2, Boston, MA 02118

GALLERY HOURS Wed-Sun, 12-6 and by appointment (617) 292-4900

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