

Marcia Wood Gallery
presents:

Rich Gere and Dayna Thacker

Smoke, Mirrors

Reception Wednesday August 2, 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Exhibition August 2 - September 2

Smoke, Mirrors, features the work of two artists who approach similar themes from different directions. Rich Gere and Dayna Thacker examine several overlapping topics in their work – most prominently, the elusive and often illusive possession of power, a love for the natural environment, and our ability to transmute circumstances into a more desirable reality. Gere's work is concerned primarily with the outer, physical manifestations of these issues, while Thacker's work takes a look at the inner, psychological and mystical perspective.

Rich Gere and Dayna Thacker return to Atlanta for a two person exhibition. Currently living in Corpus Christi Texas where Gere is Professor of Art and Chair of the Department of Art & Design at Texas A&M University, the artists have deep roots in the Atlanta art community. Gere was the Chair of the Printmaking department at a large art college in Atlanta, was on the Board of Directors of the Atlanta Printmakers Group and worked with them to found the Atlanta Print Biennial in 2013. Thacker is currently Director of Communications, Hambidge Center for Creative Arts and Sciences, (5 years), was a Atlanta Contemporary Art Center studio artist (2008 - 2013) and Managed and Curated Gallery Stokes (2007-2010).

Rich Gere's work has appeared in over 200 juried, solo and group exhibitions across the United States, Europe, Mexico and Asia. His work can be found in public and private collections in the US and Europe including; Memorial Health Systems, Savannah GA; Knoxville Museum of Art, Knoxville TN; Biblioteque National du France, Paris, France; Custom Recording Studios, Nashville TN; Traprock Peace Center, Greenfield MA and Kroger Corporation, Columbus OH. He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from The University of Massachusetts, Amherst and a Master of Fine Arts degree in studio art from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Working in collage, assemblage and installation, Dayna Thacker uses found materials to investigate thought systems we create in order to make sense of the world and ourselves, with a particular interest in the overlap of contemplative disciplines and scientific theory. A graduate of the University of Tennessee - Knoxville, Thacker worked in Atlanta from 2006 – 2014, and now lives on the coast of Texas. She was awarded a studio space at the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center for 2008-2013; was a finalist for the Forward Arts Foundation 2010 Emerging Artist Award; and her work was featured in the 2009 Southern issue of *New American Paintings*. Thacker's 2010 solo show at the Barbara Archer Gallery was reviewed in the September/October 2010 issue of *Art Papers* magazine; and her 2013 solo show was praised in *ArtsATL* and *burnaway*. Her work was included in the recent "Works on Paper: 1980-2013 Women from the Permanent Collection" at MOCA GA.