



Small Works Group Show

July 11 - July 31, 2019

Karin Bruckner

'YourSecretsAreSafeWithMe'

A Pentagon of Protection

Earlier this year Karin Bruckner exhibited her interactive installation piece “The Art of Letting Go” at Carter Burden Gallery as part of the ongoing ‘On The Wall’ Series.

As part of this installation viewers were asked to contemplate one thing to let go of in their own lives if they could. Visitors were encouraged to write short *Messages of Letting Go* on artist made scraps of paper to be cast off into the tubes of printmaking work displayed on the wall, walking away a bit more unburdened.

At the conclusion of the show, Karin collected the cast off notes and documented their contents carefully. She became the guardian of viewer’s thoughts and resolved to take the messages and transform them into a further vehicle for knowledge and growth.

Traditionally, in the ‘Small Works Show’ participating gallery artists are asked to utilize the same format and matrix to create work. Karin decided to turn five of the given canvasses into vessels for the notes entrusted in her. They are connecting towards a circle of trust by turning inward; away from the viewer, akin to *Circling the Wagons* to protect the secrets they hold, thus forming a Pentagon of Protection. All the viewer sees from the outside are the knotted red threads that are holding each individual crumpled note in place. All the outside gives away is an indication of another side. The minimalist monochrome outside gives way to a colorful multifaceted inside reflected on and in a well of wisdom around which they gather and spill over into. The anonymity is preserved, yet the messages are out to be reflected upon, to see yourself in them.

“Your Secrets are Safe with Me“, but they are also OUR secrets we ALL share.

Karin Bruckner
From "The ArtOfLettingGo" to "YourSecretsAreSafeWithMe"



“Can you keep a secret?”

At some point in our lives we have asked or have been asked that question. What most likely followed was the sharing of a secret and the expectation that it would be kept safe.

Now imagine your secret as a medium of Art, woven into the artist’s imagination and ultimately becoming the very substance of that Art.

Tucked away in Karin Bruckner’s “Your Secret is Safe With Me” are many secrets inscribed on bits of paper by various respondents. But as one looks at the Art one realizes that it is more than just about particular secrets.

It transcends the particular; it is about anyone’s secret, yours, mine, anyone’s.

As I kept looking at the piece, it struck me that it was not with the artist that the secret was safe but with the Art itself, for it had become bigger than the artist. The pact was with the Art. And then I heard that soft voice. “Your secret is safe with me.” And then the strangest of things, I found myself whispering a secret of my own to that sculpture. And again that voice, reassuring, “Your Secret is Safe With Me.”

Ric Couchman, Author of “Follow The Blue Morpho” and other Musings