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GALLERY

PRESS RELEASE
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SIBYLLE PERETTI | *Backwater*
April 3 – May 16, 2020
Reception for the artist: Thursday, April 2, 6-8pm



RISING FAWN I, 2020, kiln cast glass, 8 x 24 x 13 in.

New York -- Heller Gallery is pleased to present *Backwater*, a solo exhibition of new work by German-born artist Sibylle Peretti.

Sibylle Peretti creates multimedia collages and sculptures which explore the relationship between time, loss, emotion, memory and solitude, often depicting liminal landscapes where her protagonists – people & animals - retreat. Peretti's work balances the nostalgia of impending loss – societal or environmental - with the profound fortitude of understanding ourselves and the world.

Backwater will feature nine major new works – five wall pieces and four cast sculptures, as well as an installation of *Glass Notes*, an ongoing collaboration between Peretti and her husband, artist Stephen Paul Day.

Anchoring *Backwater* is *Tchefuncte*, a large 48-panel wall piece (60 x 80 inches), which combines photography and drawing with surface interventions such as engraving, mirroring and glass slumping. It is based on a photograph Peretti took along the riverbanks of the Tchefuncte river north of New Orleans, an area that was populated by the Tchefuncte culture as early as 500 BCE and which derives its name from the Choctaw word for a dwarf chestnut, a plant used as medicine by the first people who inhabited this area. Peretti calls it a 'temporal place that is likely to soon vanish due to flooding and human expansion,' but the composition suggests a portal, 'a waterway that is open to the viewer's imagination. When you look at the landscape, you also see your own reflection in the mirrored parts of the glass and you become a part of the journey.'

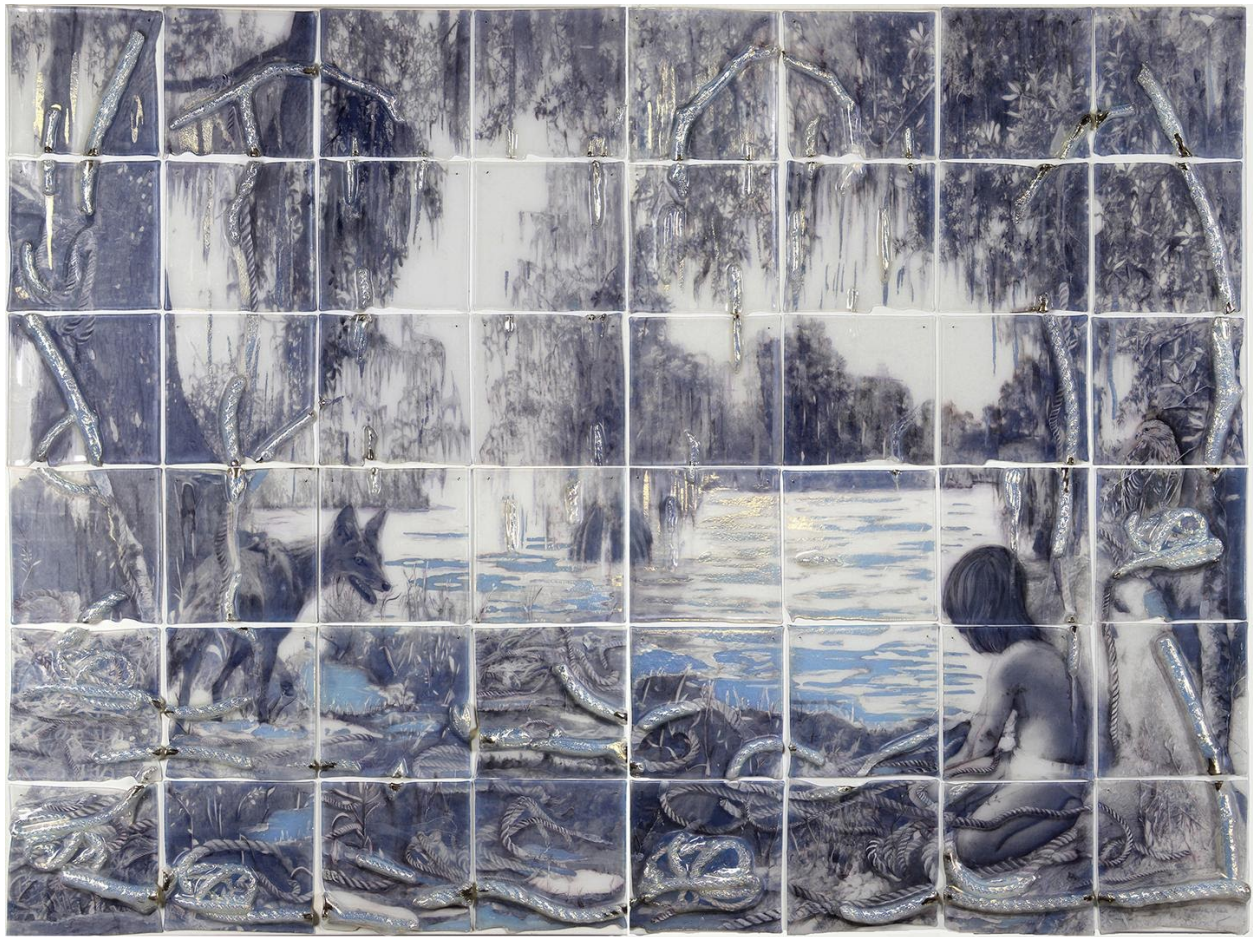
Peretti says 'one aspect of my work reflects on our disrupted relation to nature and our yearning to achieve a unity with the natural world. *Backwater* describes places that are isolated and constantly changing. Living in New Orleans just footsteps away from the Mississippi river I explore almost daily the ever-changing alluvial land with its magical backwaters.'

In capturing the transcendent moments between silence, introspection and self-discovery, hers is a quest to find and depict places of mystery and wonder as launching spots in a journey towards the infinite.

Sibylle Peretti received her MFA in Sculpture and Painting from the Academy of Fine Arts in Cologne, Germany, after first studying glassmaking & design at the State School of Glass in Zwiesel, Germany. In the past year major pieces were added to the collections of the Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH, the newly established Barry Art Museum in Norfolk, VA and most recently to the Huntsville Museum of Art in Huntsville, AL. Peretti's work is also included in the permanent collections of the New Orleans Museum of Art (New Orleans, LA), Corning Museum of Glass (Corning, NY), Carnegie Museum of Art (Pittsburgh, PA), Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (Canada), Museum of Applied Arts (Frankfurt, Germany), Hunter Museum (Chattanooga TN), Speed Museum (Louisville, KY), 21c Museum (Louisville, KY).

Peretti has won numerous awards and endorsements, including grants from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation and the Joan Mitchell Foundation, as well as the 2013 United States Artist Fellowship. In 2018 her work was featured in a solo exhibition *Promise and Perception: The Enchanted Landscapes of Sibylle Peretti*, at the Chrysler Museum of Art.

An opening reception for the artist will take place at Heller Gallery, on Thursday, April 2, 2020 from 6-8pm.



TCHEFUNCTE, 2019, glass/mixed media, 60 x 70 x 1/2 in.