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PRESS RELEASE



North West Passage 2008

NOBUKO TSUCHIYA

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Matter, material, materials; how can an artist give accessible shape to the conversation between herself and the material substance of the work? How to generate an object that is physical and still but embodies the transitional mental engagement of the process? The title of the work in the ground floor gallery, *North West Passage*, three words that are nevertheless one, suggests a wealth of associations: direction (divided), ice-cold, the sea, transit, change, endurance, slow progress, discovery. Upstairs, a collection of smaller works, in conversation, are named after cloud formations: *Stratus*, *Altus*, *Nimbus* etc.; clouds that pass by, rise and fall, thin and thicken, light in the air and heavy with moisture. All Tsuchiya's works have this suggestion of transition, of passing through, of an ephemeral solidity.

There is an apparent wide diversity of material in these remarkable sculptures but in truth the vocabulary is quite restricted; the same colours, textures, surfaces have been used and re-used over the years, toned and tweaked, pushed and polished, invited to participate in new conversations. It is the detailed association or focus which determines the progress of each piece as it passes by.

...I've gained an increased understanding of the subtleties of the material and form with which I work...These objects and materials pull me like magnets!...I respond to a material through its very nature and the 'mindset' that I perceive imbedded within it...I interact with material on many levels, the formal, of course, but more particularly, its social and cultural texture. I'm using the texture of thought as a primary material, trying to use 'thinking' as a kind of 'clay'...

Tsuchiya's works were included in *Unmonumental*, the opening show at the New Museum, New York, earlier this year. She has also exhibited at the Maison Rouge in Paris and had recent solo exhibitions in galleries in Japan and Italy. Her work is held in many important collections in Europe the USA and the Far East.

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