

# NANCY AZARA

## Passage of the Ghost Ship: Trees and Vines



TWISTED LIMB, 2016  
painted wood with aluminum, 42 x 41 x 5in.

### Artist's Statement:

**W**hile employing the long-standing tree as metaphor for woman and the body, the new sculptures featured in *Passage of the Ghost Ship: Trees and Vines* mark a departure from the colored, gold and aluminum-leaf works that I have produced over the last 30 years. Instead, the new works are monochromatic—white, and some with aluminum gilt and white. I have used concrete form and color to depict the ephemeral such as spirituality, the passage of time and the cycle of life. These sculptures in their whiteness evoke absence. However, rather than being tragic, these ghostly sculptures are deliberate, thoughtful and life-affirming. In addition to the sculptures, I present *Collage/Scrolls*: mixed media collages and rubbings on Mylar.

Curator Harry Weil writes that “Azara’s new body of work appears to us as if apparitions from an ancient forest, or a forgotten garden. Restless creations made of vines and branches that have refused to decay although no longer blossoming with the buds or fruits of springtime. Like cherished memories of long lost love, they are unwavering in their persistence while seemingly unfamiliar in their appearance. They now are little more than fragile possessions, too cherished to let go, too weighty to carry on. Painted a ghostly white, works like *Sweet Pea*, *Ghost Ship*, and *Twisted limb* have the faintest hints of life with bits of aluminum leaf gilding. It is a reminder that the radiance of hope survives the passing of time.

My recent shows include a solo show curated by Harry Weil at AIR gallery, A Tuscan Spring, in Dumbo (2016) ; *I am the Vine, You Are The Branches* at St Ann and the Holy Trinity Church, Brooklyn Heights NY, during the Lenten celebration; *Of Leaves and Vines...A shifting Braid of Lines*, at SACI Gallery, Florence Italy in 2015.

Many thanks to Henry Weil and Carmela Rea for their contributions to this statement.

**July 22 – September 10, 2017**

*Saint-Gaudens Memorial Exhibitions  
at the Picture Gallery*

## Nancy Azara

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### Education

1974 Empire State College S.U.N.Y., B.S.

1964-67 Art Students League of New York, Sculpture with John Hovannes, Painting and Drawing with Edwin Dickinson

1960-62 Lester Polakov Studio of Stage Design, New York City

1957-59 Finch College, New York, A.A.S.

### Solo Exhibitions

- 2016 *Tuscan Spring: Rubbings, Scrolls and Other Works*, curated by Harry J Weil, A.I.R. Gallery, Brooklyn, New York
- 2015 *Allegory of Leaves*, (3-person show) The Harold B. Lemmerman Gallery, New Jersey City University, Jersey City, New Jersey  
*I am the Vine, You are the Branches*, St. Ann & the Holy Trinity Church, Brooklyn, New York
- 2013 *Of leaves and vines . . . A shifting braid of lines*, SACI Gallery, Florence, Italy
- 2012 *Natural Linking*, (3-person show) Traffic Zone Center for Visual Arts, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 2011 *Spirit Taking Form: Rubbings, Tracings and Carvings*, Gaga Arts Center, Garnerville, New York
- 2010 *Spirit Taking Form: Rubbings, Tracings and Carvings*, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck, New Jersey  
*Nancy Azara: Winter Song*, Andre Zarre Gallery, NYC, New York
- 2009 *Nancy Azara*, Suffolk Community College, Long Island, New York
- 2008 *Nancy Azara*, Sanyi Museum, Miaoli, Taiwan  
Maxi's Wall, A.I.R. Gallery, NYC, New York
- 2005 *Spirit at Comma*, Comma Gallery Orlando, Florida
- 2004 *New Sculpture*, Froelick Gallery Portland OR  
*Transformations*, The Firehouse Art Gallery, Nassau Community College, Garden City, NY
- 2003 *Spirit Taking Form*, The Inquiring Mind Gallery, Saugerties, New York
- 2002 *Nancy Azara: Memorial to Spirit*, The Interchurch Center, Treasure Room Gallery, New York City  
*Nancy Azara, Sculpture*, Western Wyoming Community College, Rock Springs, Wyoming
- 2001 *Changes and Passages*, Froelick Gallery, Portland, Oregon  
*Nancy Azara, Sculpture*, Colburn Gallery, University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont
- 2000 *Heart Wall and Otherworks*, Donahue/Sosinski Art, New York City, New York
- 1999 SACI Gallery, Florence, Italy

- 1998 *Nancy Azara Sculpture*, The Art Studio at Woodstock, Woodstock, New York  
Gwinnett Fine Arts Center, Duluth, Georgia
- 1997 Donahue/Sosinski Art, New York City  
Rudolph E. Lee Gallery at the College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities, Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina  
The Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art, Augusta, Georgia

### Residencies and Awards

- 2013 La Macina di San Cresci, Greve, Chianti, Italy
- 2010 Civitella Ranieri Foundation Fellowship, Umbertide Italy (Residency)
- 2004 Elan Lifetime Achievement Award, Women's Studio Center (WSC) NYC, New York
- 2001 Chikraniketan Fellowship, Kovalam Junction, Kerala, South India (Residency)
- 2000 Bogliasco Foundation Fellowship, Genoa Italy (Residency)
- 1999 SACI, Florence, Italy (Residency)
- 1995 Jessica Cosgrove Achievement Award, Finch College Alumnae Association
- 1994 Susan B. Anthony Award, New York City, National Organization of Women
- 1993 International Friends of Transformative Art Award (IFTA) 1985 Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation Grant

### Guest Lecturer or Guest Instructor

- College Art Association, Los Angeles, California
- Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York
- University of Southampton, Winchester, England
- Studio Art Centers International (SACI), Florence, Italy
- Alberta College of Art and Design (ACAD), Calgary, Canada
- University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, Texas
- Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD), Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Mid America College Art Association Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York
- University of Southern Illinois at Edwardsville, Edwardsville, Illinois
- Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, New York
- Parsons School of Design, New York City
- Bard College, Annandale-On-Hudson, New York
- Douglass College, New Brunswick, New Jersey
- Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey
- School of Visual Arts, New York City
- Hunter College, New York City
- Barnard College, New York City
- Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts

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This exhibition is sponsored through the generosity of the Saint-Gaudens Memorial.

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exhibition, the summer concert series, and other events that increase public awareness of Augustus Saint-Gaudens and his works, and that promote sculpture and the arts in general.

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