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**Scott White Contemporary Art Presents:  
"Spiral: New Paintings by Gail Roberts"**

Opening Reception: Saturday, June 8, 2013  
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Exhibition Dates: June 8 – July 27

**La Jolla, CA – April 30, 2013** Scott White Contemporary Art is pleased to present distinctive new nest, feather, and tree paintings by San Diego based artist Gail Roberts in her exhibition "Spiral: New Paintings by Gail Roberts."

Roberts, whose work teeters between representational and surreal, invites us to reconsider common natural structures and our relationship with the environment. The exhibition will focus on large nest, feather, and tree paintings, all of which explore Fibonacci mathematical sequence related to spirals found in nature.



*Disperse*, 2012, Oil on canvas, 48" x 52"

The common thread visible throughout Roberts's oeuvre is her method of incorporating two seemingly un-related objects —such as birds' nests and

books—to convey a playful, slightly dark sense of wonder at the interpenetration of nature and culture in the urban parts of southern California.

In her nest paintings, Roberts focuses on books and text as subject matter juxtaposed with images of birds' nests. The nests are accumulations of organic matter interwoven to form cradles, architectural feats in their strength and endurance. They evoke references to birth and innocence, but when abandoned they have qualities of death and decay. The books depicted reflect on notions of naïveté versus wisdom, fantasy versus reality, and suppression versus freedom. The selected text in two of the paintings exhibited describes birds in flight, hunting and being hunted, and provides us with a sense of their tenacity and acrobatics. Partial spirals also visible throughout the formation of the nest structure. In their entirety, these nest paintings act as commentary on the relationships between nature and culture, and force us to confront our temporal existence.

The artist's reflection on the Fibonacci principle—the mathematical sequence in which each number is the sum of the previous two numbers—can be seen in her piece entitled *Feathers*. This series consists of twelve related paintings, the first depicting one single hawk feather and the twelfth depicting what we can assume to be 233 turkey feathers. The accelerating numbers quickly create a solid blanket of feathers and allude to massive growth and expansion and simultaneously to decomposition and disintegration.



*Thirty-four Owl*, 2013, oil on marble, 12"x12"

Roberts explores the notions of change versus permanence in her twelve-panel tree painting, *Reflections on my Father*. Each panel is an image of a different tree, but collectively they create an image of one tree and its reflection in the water. Fragments of spirals are repeated throughout the composition and form a continuous interlocking structure.

Roberts's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally including the Galeria Nacional in San Jose, Costa Rica; Musee Rochefort-en-terre, Brittany, France; Ballinglen Arts Center, Ballycastle, Ireland; Carnegie Museum, Oxnard, California; Riverside Museum, California; Fresno Metropolitan Museum, California and Madison Art Center, Wisconsin. Her work has been critically reviewed in Art in America, Art Ltd., Los Angeles Times, and Modern Painters and is included in permanent collections at the Oakland Museum; Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego; San Diego Museum of Art, as well as numerous corporate and private collections. Art critic Robert Pincus writes, "She is exhorting us to see nature as a luminous mirror of our ceaseless obsession with mortality. Seeing nature wax and wane around her, she has become acutely aware of the fragility of life."

Roberts has been awarded the 2010 San Diego Art Prize, a California Arts Council Fellowship and residency fellowships in France, Costa Rica and Ireland. She has completed public art commissions at the Chicago Public Library, Lux Art Institute, and the San Diego International Airport. Gail Roberts received her BFA and MA at the University of New Mexico and is a Professor of Art at San Diego State University.



*Reflections on My Father*, 2013, Oil on canvas, twelve 18" x 18" panels, overall dimensions 81" x 60"

### **About Scott White Contemporary Art**

Scott White Contemporary Art has assisted in developing private and public collections for over two decades. Since 1991, the gallery has committed itself to

the promotion of emerging to established artists, the majority of which are represented in the permanent collections of museums throughout the world. SWCA features contemporary painting, prints, sculptures, and photography from the United States, Canada and Europe. In addition, Scott White Contemporary Art represents private collections and estates for the acquisitioning and deaccessioning of artwork by significant modern and contemporary artists.

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