

Susan Eley

Fine Art

Capturing West 90th Street:

A Suite of Photographs of a Central Park West Block

Works by Maria Passarotti

On view January 10-30, 2007

Following Maria Passarotti's inaugural exhibition at Susan Eley Fine Art in June 2006, the Gallery and the West 90th Street Park Block Association commissioned the artist to create a body of work for an exhibition to benefit the West 90th Street Park Block Association.

Over the summer and through the fall, Passarotti photographed the block from vantage points at street level and on terraces, in daylight and at nighttime, capturing the rich history, beauty and dynamism of this unique block, between Central Park West and Columbus Avenue. This series, the result of those efforts, was inspired by the interplay of light and shadow on the street, characterized by row houses and pre-war buildings, topped by an arching tree canopy and culminating to the east with spectacular reservoir views.

Having grown up in suburban Cresskill, NJ, Passarotti has always sought moments to freeze to define endless stretches of asphalt, vast parking lots and suburban backyards. Passarotti uncovers beauty in the most mundane of scenes. Absent of people, these photographs evoke a haunting human presence through hints of domestic life. In the night photographs, the artist employs a very slow exposure time, 5-30 minutes, which allowed her to capture the crisp details of inanimate objects--dining tables, book shelves or colored textiles, glimpsed through windows, or chairs, plants and strings of festive lights revealed on rooftops and in backyards.

Passarotti graduated in 2000 with a BFA from the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, NY. Her work has been showcased in many galleries in New York, including Susan Eley Fine Art, OK Harris, David Allen Gallery, John Jay College and the American Museum of Natural History, as well as in Vancouver British Columbia. She lives and works in Tappan, NY.

The Gallery and the Block Association wish to thank Maria for all of her hard work. We also extend our gratitude to Carole and Richard Eisner, Ali and Edward Felsenthal, Mo and AJ Mediratta, Yvan Prokesch and Jody Weinstock and Neil Feldman for welcoming Maria into their apartments and onto their rooftops; Christina Hatcher, Nancy Brandon and Zuzana Ondrisikova for their invaluable assistance; David Craig for producing the invitation; Daniel Arzuaga for the flower arranging and Sediq Rhamatzada at Columbus Art Gallery for the framing. Forty per cent of the proceeds from this exhibition will go to the Block Association.