

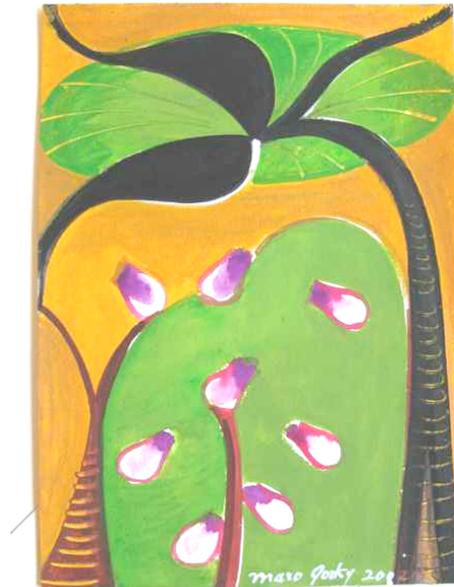
M A R O G O R K Y

The Dimension of Feeling

12 March – 4 April 2009

Private View:
Wednesday 11th March 6 - 8 pm

Gallery opening times:
Tuesday – Friday 10 – 5.30 +
Saturday *by appointment*



Maro Gorky was born in New York in 1943, the eldest daughter of the Armenian / American painter Arshille Gorky, one of the originators of Abstract Expressionism. Growing up surrounded by the heroes of Modernism, her first art tutors – before she had properly learnt to walk – were Andre Breton and Roberto Matta. Her father's suicide when she was five years old, and the subsequent recognition of his epic legacy for American Art, set Maro Gorky on an artistic voyage that seemed both inborn and eternally restless.

The life that followed this extraordinary beginning was no less vivid. After Maro's father's death the family moved to Europe and she trained at the Slade, graduating in 1965. Aged 24 she married the artist Matthew Spender, the son of the poet Sir Stephen Spender. Free-spirited, wandering around the continent, they settled in a rambling house on a Tuscan hilltop, where, in their separate studios they responded to the human life that accompanied them and the plant life that was already there. Their idyllic, bohemian existence inspired Bernardo Bertolucci's film *Stealing Beauty*.

The beautiful sculpted gardens and native scrub-land of the slopes that surround Gorky's home are her major subject – both the formal planting and the luxuriant native weeds such as giant fennel and wild allium. Dividing her time between gardening and painting, the two activities intertwine in the artist's mind: *'I'm struck by the way that gardening and painting work together. The intention is to create order out of chaos, yet it's exciting when things don't go as you plan and the medium itself answers back.'*

'Ms. Gorky's landscapes are very satisfying to look at. Her stained-glass color, crisp shapes and compositional majesty instill her syntheses of previous art with the force of an individual intently focused personality. You can't ask much more of art.'

ROBERTA SMITH, New York Times, 2006

For further information or images please contact either Sarah Long or Tom Juneau at the gallery.