

**For Immediate Release**  
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**Holly Sears & Wendy Rolfe**  
***Dream Awake***  
**January 28 – March 6, 2010**



Holly Sears / *Big Water* / 45 x 76" / oil on linen



Wendy Rolfe / *To Dream, Perchance to Awaken* / 24 x 30 x 4" / oil on curved panel

**January 28, 2010 - New York, NY:** Tria Gallery presents “Dream Awake” featuring paintings by artists Holly Sears and Wendy Rolfe through March 6, 2010. Both Sears and Rolfe explore the relationship between the human, animal and spiritual worlds in their work. A dream-like quality combined with a distorted sense of proportion leads the viewer quickly from reality to fantasy, and the feeling of other-worldliness prevails. The result is simultaneously disorienting and calming.

Sears’ large scale, detailed paintings have a photo-like quality to them, while Rolfe’s work is painted on heavy bowed wood and evokes the feeling of an Italian Renaissance altar piece.

**Holly Sears**

Sears has always been “awed and inspired by the mystery and amorality of nature.” Drawing from the natural world, both real and imaginary, Sears endeavors to capture the “unconscious and symbolic rituals and phenomena” that fill this often unseen universe. To her, creatures are the liaison between the natural and human worlds, and “imply a kinship to human experience.”

Sears paints with thin oil glazes, directly applied, layer upon layer onto a stretched linen ground. She explains that this can be a painstakingly slow process, but that it allows her to effectively translate her subjects and physically construct the elements in her paintings, adjusting and building the images, and giving “veracity” to what could be conceived as unbelievable content.” The oil glazing creates a mirror-like surface which produces a luminous depth and at the same time shows the history of the making in the surface of the painting, which engages the viewer in an abstract and formal way upon close inspection.

Sears’ work has been featured in four solo exhibitions in New York and two in Virginia, and in numerous group exhibitions throughout the country. She is a three time recipient of a fellowship from The Virginia Center for the Arts (VCCA), and her work can be found in corporate and private collections throughout the country. She lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

### **Wendy Rolfe**

Rolfe states that, as a painter, she tries to “go inside everything [she] creates.” Her dream-like images arise from her own study of what she terms the “psychology of enlightenment” and the creation of visual interpretations of concepts and archetypal symbols that, to her, “best represent this interior path.” She discusses the Zen term “Satori,” which she says means a ‘moment of presence’; “Satori space” she says, creates “peace and creative power.” “It is from within this process that I refer to birds which, in their flight, bring to mind notions of peace and desire.”

Rolfe’s pieces have been described as “portable alters”. Her heavily symbolist works are visually lush and conceptually rich. They suggest, with both reverence and irreverence, the work of an old Italian master. Says Rolfe:

I am passionate about concepts that challenge the imagination and often require a leap of faith, visually and spiritually. This sense of wonderment further encouraged me to study the archetypal world of dreams. The machinations of the unconscious mind as well as my personal quest for enlightenment are strongly suggested throughout my work. Sometimes compared to magic realism in literary terms, my paintings celebrate a myriad of surreal qualities and symbolic imagery that is open to the observers’ interpretation. I believe one’s imagination is incalculable and truly a treasure to behold.

Born in Marblehead, Massachusetts; a small, 17th century fishing village surrounded by the illustrious waters and landscapes of New England, Rolfe was inspired at an early age by the earthy nature of that peninsula to become a painter. Determined to grow as a visual artist, Rolfe lived and traveled extensively throughout Europe, Mexico, Central America and the U.S. to discover her language as a painter. Latin culture, specifically its Christian elements, plays a significant role in her work. Rolfe has exhibited in dozens of galleries throughout the U.S., and her work exists in countless corporate and private collections throughout the country.

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It is the mission of Tria Gallery to exhibit a balance of established artists with impressive resumes and exciting young talent, showing representational and abstract work, painting, sculpture, mixed media and installations. The common denominator is that the Tria artist has a unique, authentic voice and a compelling body of work which the directors feel should be given an audience.

Tria is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 11 am to 6 pm, or by appointment. “Dream Awake” runs from January 28 through March 6. For more information, please visit [www.triagallerynyc.com](http://www.triagallerynyc.com).