



trees

PRINTS

REBECCA COWAN



trees

PRINTS BY REBECCA COWAN

STUDIO22 OPEN GALLERY
JULY 21 TO AUGUST 25, 2012

t r e e s

P r i n t s

by

R E B E C C A

C O W A N

© 2 0 1 2

JUNE 21ST TO

AUG 25TH, 2012

S T U D I O 2 2

O P E N G A L L E R Y

E X H I B I T I O N

E D I T I O N

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trees



1. spring trees



2. spring trees



3. spring trees



4. summer trees



5. summer trees



6. summer trees



7. fall trees



8. fall trees



9. fall trees



10. winter trees



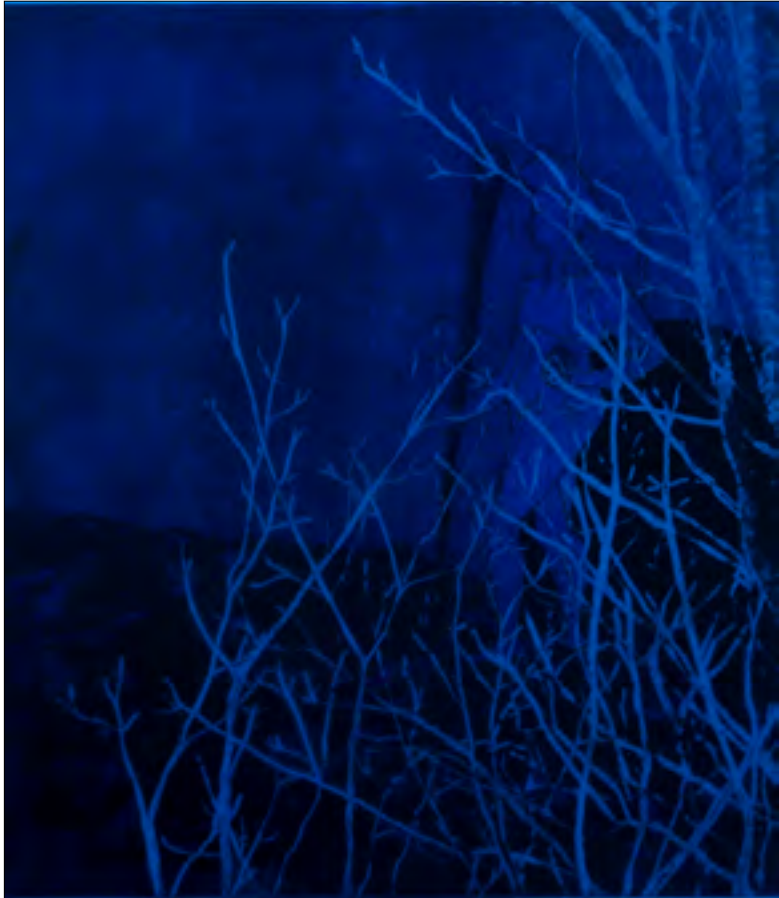
11. winter trees



12. winter trees



13. forest dream



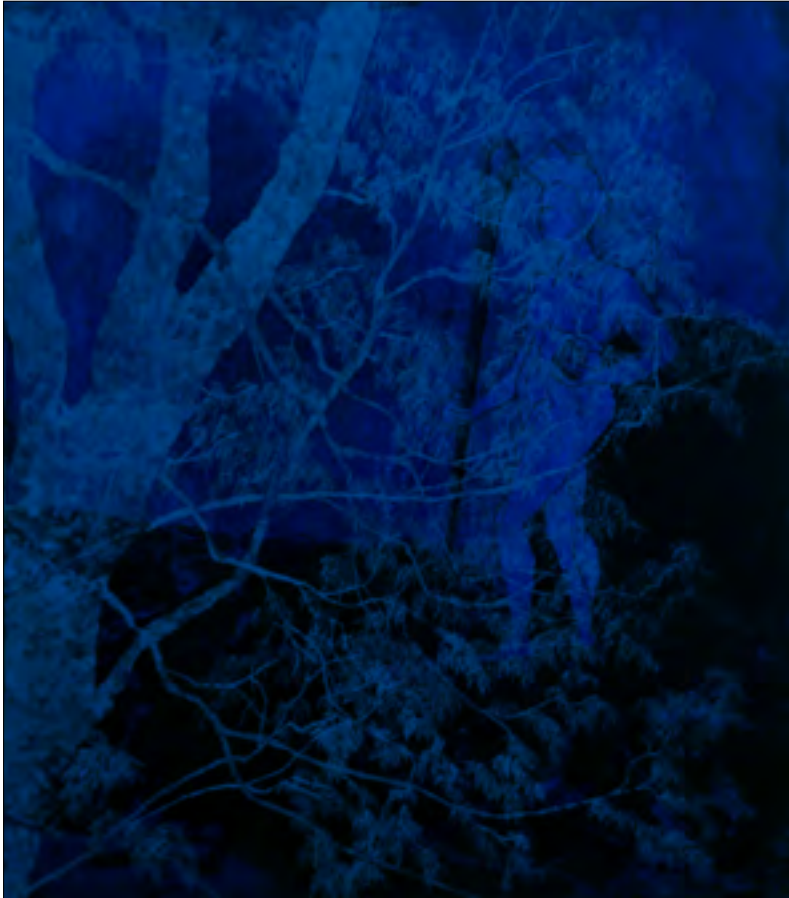
14. forest dream



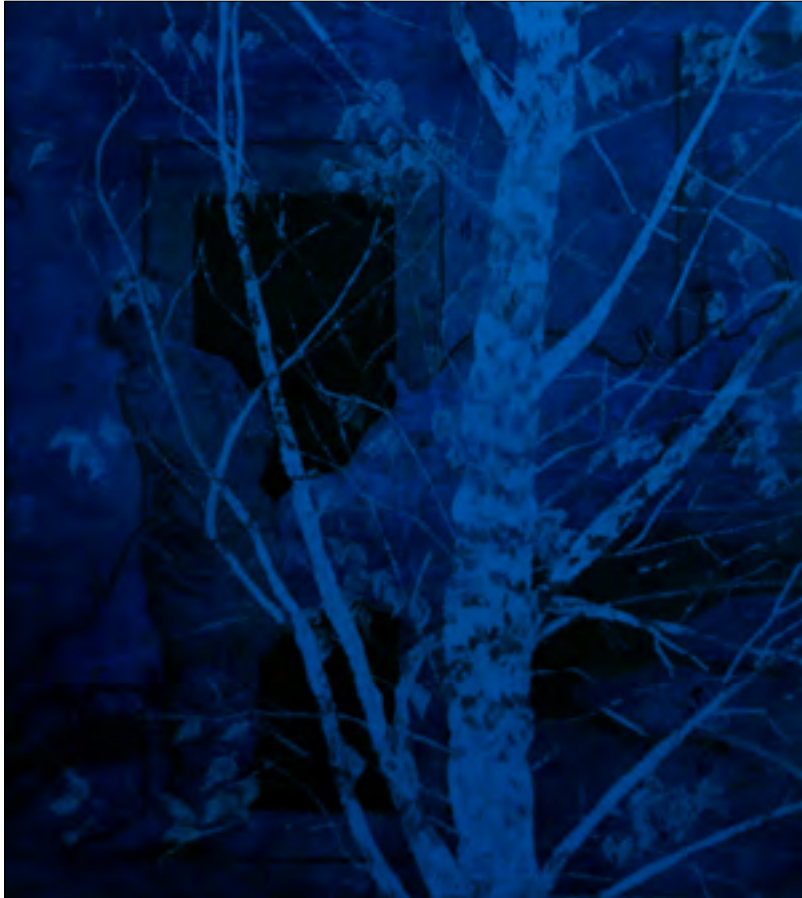
15. forest dream



16. forest dream



17. forest dream



18. forest dream



19. family tree



20. family tree



21. family tree



22. family tree



23. family tree

24. family tree



25. family tree

26. family tree

I can't recall exactly when I decided to start making the tree images. Possibly it was on one of those early mornings when I was having trouble moving into my day. As I sat there half-daydreaming, half-procrastinating, I looked out at the walnut trees behind my house. Their stark forms were silhouetted against the grey sky. There they stood, persevering day after day, as they faced the changing seasons. They continued to stand tall whether their branches were bare, budding, full of fruit, or losing their leaves. Even when they got knocked down by wind or ice, their roots just went a little deeper and they continued to grow. Through everything that came their way the trees remained strong and elegant. Suddenly, I found myself inspired by their beauty, their power and their resilience.

I wondered if trees were offering us life lessons. They always seem ready to bend with the unexpected changes the world brings, and to grow in new ways into whatever space is available to them. If we watch trees day after day, can we learn something about standing tall when faced with adversity? Does their example of renewal, perseverance and flexibility give us strength?

Perhaps this quote from Marcel Proust gives us an answer:

We have nothing to fear and a great deal to learn from trees, that vigorous and pacific tribe which without stint produces strengthening essences for us, soothing balms, and in whose gracious company we spend so many cool, silent, and intimate hours.

ARTIST BIO

Rebecca Cowan was still climbing trees when she was awarded second prize in a provincial art contest sponsored by the United Nations. Afterwards, everyone assumed she would come down from the trees and become an artist - everyone, that is, except Rebecca. Instead, she studied theatre design and English literature, and spent the better part of her twenties as a set painter, prop builder and window dresser. Just before turning thirty, she finally entered a full-time program at the Toronto School of Art. It was there that Rebecca fell in love with printmaking.

Upon completion of her studies, Rebecca became an artist member of Open Studio, Canada's foremost printmaking facility. Over the next fifteen years there, she created six suites of black-and-white etchings that explored various aspects of the human condition. These narrative prints received awards and honours from juries of both artists and curators.

As an extension of Rebecca's printmaking practice, she also ventured into book arts, creating several etched books that, along with her prints, can be found in numerous public and private collections throughout Canada and the United States.

Since moving to Kingston in 2001, Rebecca has continued to make both prints and books. Although still connected to Open Studio, she has also been active in the art scene here, exhibiting with the Organization of Kingston Women Artists and the newly-formed Kingston Printmakers Group. This is her second solo exhibition at Studio 22.

Currently Rebecca is not climbing trees, preferring instead to appreciate them from the ground.