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## ARCADIAN DREAMS

paintings on windows and doors by  
**Carol Taylor-Kearney**



Most of us think of windows and doors as access-ways—you stand in a place, look into another. Carol Taylor-Kearney uses them as supports for her mixed media paintings. Inspired 19th century artists, Taylor-Kearney employs the technique of *hinterglasmalerei* (behind the glass painting) on windows and doors to create multi-layered artworks. These artworks will be on exhibition in *Arcadian Dreams* from April 19-May 14 at Atlantic Gallery in Chelsea, NYC.

Like her works, Carol Taylor-Kearney is a vibrant artist whose small stature is sometimes at odds with her lively energy. Working primarily on found objects, this little dynamo uses bright colors, layered representational images and mixed media objects to build her paintings. Such a pastiche of materials, ideas and 3-dimensionality can make it difficult to classify her works as they often go beyond the boundaries of a traditional picture. Her images can be akin to animation cells, yet they rarely appear to tell full stories. Instead they are more like snippets from stream of consciousness, meditation, or private reverie. She also uses metal screening to construct shadowy figures or dreamy visions. In *Arcadian Dreams*, she obsessively combines these elements to cover each piece with figures, objet d'arts and screens that show a subject's history, reality, future and potential concurrently.

"I was moved by a show called *Visions of Arcadia*," Taylor-Kearney said. "Part of my intention is to show Nature's imprint on mankind rather than just mankind's impact on the environment; but in creating work from familiar pictures, relived experiences and discarded windows, I am also reporting on something more personal and very Arcadian. Arcadians were inspired by the notion, 'Et in Arcadia ego', which says that existence in the present—however, idyllic—is an existence in tandem with death and regeneration."

For Taylor-Kearney, this is a prescient point. A diabetic since a young child, her daily world is layered with instances in which life, death, past, present, future, reality, magic, roads taken and roads untaken all overlap in a seemingly true way. In this same fashion, she has layered her work: there are figures after figures created in paint, paper and screen that exist across dimensions, time, realities and environs. Each piece, each moment combines the shadows of its precursors, the potential and brilliance of its present, and its limitless, ethereal future—all with equanimity and without fear.

"For me these are the creation of something new out of my past; for the audience, these paintings can be a reconstruction of the past or a meeting of new events, circumstances and experiences in their future," she says. "As an artist I am a storyteller, and that story is life. Life is a gift, full of potential, and we should never be afraid of our past or what lies in our future, even if the idea seems scary."

*Arcadian Dreams* is at Atlantic Gallery from April 19-May 14. Gallery hours are 12pm to 6pm Tuesday through Saturday. The gallery is located at 548 W. 28th Street, Suite 540, just a block from the High Line. Artist reception on Thursday, April 21, 2016 from 5pm-8pm with a 2nd reception on April 30 from 6pm-9pm featuring live music by Caroline Kearney at 7pm. Both events are open to the public. For more information, visit [www.Taylor-KearneyArts.com](http://www.Taylor-KearneyArts.com), [www.AtlanticGallery.org](http://www.AtlanticGallery.org) and [www.carolinekearney.com](http://www.carolinekearney.com)

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**ABOUT THE ARTIST**—Carol Taylor-Kearney is an artist, arts educator, and curator who is a graduate of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, shows both in New York City and nationally, is a part of several public collections, has received grants from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and Artist Fellowship, Inc.; and been a resident artist at the Vermont Studio Center, Peters Valley Craft Center, and the Pouch Cove Foundation in Newfoundland.

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