

# SHERRIE WOLF

## *ANIMAL LIFE*

APRIL 2 – MAY 2, 2009

**Jenkins Johnson Gallery**

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Hours: Tuesday – Friday 10 to 6,

Saturday 10 to 5



*Sealife, Birds and Shells, 2008, oil on canvas, 48 x 60 inches*

Jenkins Johnson Gallery is pleased to present *Animal Life*, a new series of work by Sherrie Wolf. The exhibition is composed of oil paintings on view from April 2nd through May 2nd, 2009. There will be a reception for the artist held on Thursday, April 2nd from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

Wolf, the Pacific Northwest painter known for juxtaposing still lives with appropriations from old masters' paintings, presents a striking new body of work that explores a dynamic relationship between saturated large-scale still lives and paintings of animals in nature. Wolf composes her still lives with vibrant colors found in expressive fruits and flowers. Her impeccably rendered quotations are drawn from art historical periods such as the Baroque, the Rococo, and the Renaissance, among others, and are seamlessly paired with an array of found objects and natural elements.

In "Birds and Shells (Ref: Philip Reinagle, 1749-1833)" the artist renders a complicated piece with astonishing detail and a staged still life of shells, objects and a flower. At the heart of the composition is a strong, fiery red, and orange parrot tulip in full-bloom, the flower is balanced by an array of shells and objects in the foreground. In the background, Reinagle's imagery depicts and demonstrates a utopian environment of extraordinary birds feasting at shore and arranged about the full of the canvas. The painting presents a window into a fanciful environment, full of life and exotica, while creating a feeling of enticing escapism for the viewer.

The juxtaposition between foreground and quoted background is the prevalent theme within Wolf's work because she creates pairings meant to mutually enhance; she describes the potential relationship between these two counterparts, "A plate of fruit can underline the poised serenity of an antelope. Tulips mimic or mock the foliage and gestures of birds, taking on similar personalities. An appropriately placed toy animal can provide animate interactions and commentary." The endless possibilities that these pairings can create present unending interest for the artist and her tendency to play with the notion that art is artifice. Her new body of work is playful, powerful, and entirely engaging. Wolf has the incredible ability to take rich imagery and apply a full spectrum of color to each canvas.

Jenkins Johnson Gallery has represented Sherrie Wolf since 1999. Her work has been included in permanent museum and corporate collections such as: Portland Art Museum; Hallie Ford Museum, OR; City of Seattle; Washington State Art Collection; Hilton Hotel, Portland and Southern Oregon State College, Ashland. Wolf has received awards by Oregon State University, Oregon Arts Commission, and the Portland Art Museum.