



I have been thinking a lot about sleep in the last year, in particular dreams. I find my dream life is an absorbing place where relationships of objects and colors, combine and exist in a way that is nonverbal and perfect in every way. Tunnels appear, doors open, rooms grow and it all flows together in a natural progression from night to morning. Because of this, I decided to create an installation to map a dream; to create an artwork that would mimic a Chinese landscape scroll, that could be unrolled and be looked at in a piece or dropped into to view at any point. I wanted to take the idea of dream and sleep and look at it in a beautiful and gentle manner. I have called this piece- In Sleep: We Dream.

The Scroll

I found in a magazine a wonderful description of different ways to create gardens using 7 archetypal Chinese structures that mimic birth to death. They are 1.) Sea: immersion, prebirth, 2.) The Cave: inside to outside, birth, 3.) The Harbor: enclosed with a view, infant 4.) The Promatory: edge of childhood, 5.) The Island: place away, adolescence, 6.) The Mountain: pinnacle view, adulthood and finally 7.) The Sky: transcendence death.* This I used as the structure for the piece, a way to look at the whole, that would address these archetypes, these spaces that I had been seeing in my sleep and that would take the piece from beginning to end.

The Sleepers

The sleepers on the wall frames the scroll, defining the physical environment of sleep, and the parameters of the scroll. They are seen as if the viewer is floating above them looking down at these manifestations of sleep. There are seven of them, describing the movement of the sleeper through the dream state.

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Ruth West

Ruth West is an internationally recognized artist who has been working with computer art for the last 20 years. One of the first two graduates of the University of Massachusetts with a Masters of Fine Arts degree in Computer Graphics, her art has grown steadily along with her chosen medium. In 1992, West was the first digital artist given a residency in Monet's Garden in Giverny, France.

Since then West has created a new digital body of work every two years. They are The Digital Garden (1992), Blackbird,Raven,Crow, (1994), Savage Women (1996), Millennium Ghosts (1998) and Counting with Pears (2000). Each of these series are represented by Silicon Gallery and can be seen on line at www.ruthwest.com.

Currently, West can be found napping with her pugs in the woods of New England preparing for her next series of work.

* Drawing Inspiration from Archetypal Spaces, (March/April2001) Julie Moir Messervy, Fine Gardening