

Incunabula

new works by Tammy Woodrow

3/10 - 15/10/2015

The term incunabulum (noun plural incunabula) derives from Latin. It historically meant swaddling clothes, cradle, origin or birthplace. Incunabula can further suggest the earliest stages, beginnings, infancy, the cocoon of an insect, an early artwork or a memento of the early period of art or human activity.

Incunabulum is mostly known to define a book printed before 1501 but artist Tammy Woodrow was mostly fascinated by the other meanings which made her think of memories of her childhood and her relationship with her mother who recently passed away.

The reclaimed wood was sourced from a tree which had special significance. The dead tree components also symbolize decay and death. Combined with found objects, mostly metal, the sculptural pieces often look like they have undergone medical interventions.

Most of the materials have deeper meanings, like the ginkgo leaves. They are a recurring motif in art and have been used as a symbol of peace, hope and vitality and also as a symbol of love and duality.

The wire constraints and restricts but at the same time indicates life cycles and life lines. Some pieces have an atmosphere of archaeology, of found fossils preserved to have an eternal after life.

These organic sculptures could not be shown in a gallery environment because of danger of insects. They have been photographed instead against a black backdrop which makes them look like they are floating in an infinite universe, emphasizing the feeling of existentialism and questions about life and death.

This exhibition is dedicated to my parents.