Silent Poetry: Woodcut Prints of the California Landscape by Tom Killion

August 17–October 9, 2012

Born and raised in Mill Valley, landscape artist Tom Killion has a deep appreciation of California scenery from Big Sur to the High Sierras, finding the ideal locations for his on-site sketches to create captivating panoramas.

Dedicated to hand-drawn and hand-carved techniques, Killion’s influences include the Japanese masters Hokusai and Hiroshige as well as European and American wood-engravers such as Eric Gill and Rockwell Kent. Since his beginning in 1975, he has created over 400 relief prints, many incorporating increasingly sophisticated multi-block color techniques using as many as a dozen colors. In 2000 and 2009 Killion published two books, The High Sierras of California and Tamalpais Walking, in collaboration with Pulitzer-prize winning poet Gary Snyder. Like Snyder’s poetry, Killion’s artistic style is truly Pacific Rim in its merging of eastern and western techniques, transforming familiar landmarks such as the Golden Gate into dreamscapes, or as described in Japanese, “floating worlds.”


Killion studied history at UC Santa Cruz and received a Ph.D. in African History from Stanford. He has worked as an administrator in a medical relief program in Sudan and taught at Bowdoin College and San Francisco State University. He has shown work since the mid 1970s and has exhibited around the world, from the British Museum in London and La Galerie Blanche in Carnac, France to the Davis Art Center and the Ansel Adams Gallery in California.

Silent Poetry Brochure and Educational Activity
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