

ELENA DEL RIVERO

## *Flying Letters...*

March 24 – April 27, 2011

Galería Elvira Gonzalez is pleased to announce the fifth solo exhibition of Elena del Rivero in the gallery.

In this occasion the artist returns to Madrid with a series of works on abaca paper, produced by Dieu Donne Papermill in New York, entitled *Flying Letters...* This series is a continuation of the work presented last year at La Conservera in Murcia. In *Flying Letters...* the feather, fragile and humble, is the symbol that weaves and writes becoming the *leitmotif* of the show. The contamination of the private and public space, the translation into visual language of the difficulty of



communication, and the poetic of the quotidian are some of the concepts that this body of work brings to mind. As John Yau observes in the catalogue of La Conservera, Murcia (2010), *The metaphorical associations and connections that Del Rivero makes are the pleasure of work.*

Elena, however, simply explains the inspiration of this body of work by recalling when she was in the park reading in the late afternoon, when a feather fell from the tree, under which she was sitting, onto her book. She took it home to be cleaned and disinfected and started to incorporate the feather, as a symbol, in her work.

These visual letters that can also be viewed as entries of a diary, are drawings executed with great precision in which some real feathers, gathered by the artist or received from friends who knew of her project, can be found.



*Skyping*, 2009. 9,4 x 9 in

Elena has worked before with the myth of Andromeda, Arachne and Danäe and in this body of work she seems to be delving into the theme of the labyrinth. As John Yau also points out in the essay previously quoted, *Given the importance of the myth of the labyrinth in Del Rivero's work, it is worth noting that she never makes a direct reference to it, perhaps because she understands that her life and ours is unfolding inside a maze from which we will never emerge.*

The exhibition includes large format works on paper, objects, small canvases and showcases displaying items of inspiration and support materials that shows the diverse mediums the artist welcomes in her oeuvre. They also remind us of the visual work of an archaeologist of dreams.

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Nearly all the titles make reference to the idea of flying however; the feathers seem to always be falling.



*Unreal! Spinning Letters #4*, 2010. 79 x 59 in



*Falling in love. A letter from Adromeda to Perseus #9*, 2010. 79 x 59 in

Elena del Rivero lives and works in New York. She has recently had exhibitions at La Conservera, Murcia (2010), University of Barcelona (2009), The Corcoran Gallery, Washington D.C. (2008), IVAM, (2006), Patio Herreriano, Valladolid (2007), and the Drawing Center, NY, (2001).

In 2011 the New Museum in New York will be installing *Chant*. Elena del Rivero is also working on the *cedarliberty* project, with filmmaker Leslie McCleave, which will be installed in the State Museum of Albany, New York in 2011.