

Nancy Palmeri

Press Release

Naughty and Nice, Decameron Images

A.I.R. Gallery II

13 December-3 January 1998

"Naughty and Nice, Decameron Images" is a series of woodcut prints that deal, in part, with the exploration of issues of cultural identity and the understanding of the structure of my experiences.

The daughter of Italian immigrants, my daily existence was colored by exposure to strange cultural and religious icons. This attraction to translating cultural identity coupled with an intense interest in the strongly developed artistic expression of the Italian Renaissance art has brought my research to an examination of issues and identity in a broader, more historical context. Legends, myth, time, place and memories have become connected to my visual dialogue between my life experiences and a broader sense of self.

In 1994, my attraction and connection to the Italian Renaissance brought me to Florence Italy to further pursue my research. Upon my return, and in pursuit of a broader understanding of my own work as well as some of the specific iconographic references of Renaissance art, I began reading Dante's Divine Comedy and, more recently, Boccaccio's Decameron. The Decameron has provided me a venue with which I am able to remap, through appropriation of images and text, the course of my studio research. These prints consider the subtlety of language, humor, culture and sexuality contained in Boccaccio's stories. Within my work, I have examined and draw upon early attitudes toward the printed images and books with text, a new form of communication at the end of the 15th century. Evoking a contemporary visual knowledge, I am making images that create a new narrative and provides a different insight into the Decameron while developing an iconographic system that will transform and redefine my work.