

NEWS RELEASE

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STAIB GALLERY PRESENTS SCULPTURES OF EMILIE BENES BRZEZINSKI IN HER FIRST SOLO NEW YORK EXHIBITION

New York City --

The Staib Gallery at 8 Greene Street in SoHo will present the monumental wood sculptures of Emilie Benes Brzezinski from January 31 through March 9, in what will be the artist's first major New York exhibition.

Using chisel, axe and chainsaw, Brzezinski has produced a remarkable series of sculptures which are concerned not only with nature and materials, but also with process, change and growth. Her work, which shares an aesthetic with contemporaries Magdalena Jetelova and David Nash, departs from that aesthetic by a concern for her materials, and a striving to release its inherent spirit.

Says Brzezinski: "In my current work I continue my constant interest in the tree trunk as a symbol of life. I see wood not as a material from which to produce an unrelated object, but rather as a nature-given statement, a found object and inspirational source which as a sculptor I must unveil and compose."

Repeatedly, in works such as *Arch in Flight*, and *Daphne*, where cherry reaches heights of ten feet and more, or in her pivotal floor piece *Shells*, Brzezinski reveals the wood's inner strengths, rhythms and forms, achieving this with an Eastern sensibility.

Born in Geneva, Switzerland, Brzezinski lived briefly in England before emigrating to the United States, where she studied at the California College of Arts and Crafts, and at Wellesley College, later receiving a fellowship at the Boston Museum School in Massachusetts.

The Staib Gallery, now in its second year, continues in its commitment to being a space for contemporary sculpture.

There will be a reception for the artist on Thursday, January 31, from 6 to 8 P.M.