

Artist Profile



Artist and Curator
Maddy Rosenberg
Photo; courtesy of the
artist

A major international print show, *New York/Paris DIALOGUE Paris/New York*, ran simultaneously for two months at three venues in each city in the fall of 2005. The exhibition featured 36 French and American artists and was conceived of and organized by Brooklyn artist Maddy Rosenberg. Over a period of 4 years, Maddy worked as co-curator with her French colleagues, making at least thirty studio visits to choose the artists, find the gallery sites and produce a beautiful catalogue.

"She did an incredibly wonderful job," says the New York artist, Sarah Plimpton. "All the artists involved were overwhelmed. Maddy had tremendous energy and perseverance to deal with so many people in two countries, not all of them easy to work with. She managed all the framing and catalogue work, got the slides and art together and raised the money to do it. It seemed like she emailed us everyday for four years."

As a painter and printmaker, this kind of work did not come naturally to Maddy. She really loves to work alone in her Red Hook studio on small intimate pieces that she describes as, "intellectual rather than gestural." Lucky for us, she forced herself to get out into the world and develop the other part of being an artist: making a living. Describing the work conducted outside of the studio as her "day job" she says, "I had to develop skills to do the networking that leads to teaching, residencies and fellowships and to become a known professional in the field." When she makes phone calls to dealers and curators, she says, "I still have to remember that they're in the art business because they like artists and need us. I have to get around, go to workshops, put out press releases and think, "This is a person who should know my work."

Today, Maddy finds her professional life outside the studio empowering. She describes her younger self as a shy kid. "I was the weird artist in my class at PS276 in Canarsie." Speaking of her move to the High School of Art and Design in Manhattan she states, "It saved my life, I loved that school." Maddy went on to Cornell where she received her BFA and to Bard where she received her MFA in Painting. While Brooklyn is her permanent home, she feels a need to travel elsewhere to work for at least a few months every year- meeting people and seeing other artwork and landscapes and expanding her possibilities. For instance, her friendship with Devorah Boxer who is a member of the French printmaking organization, Le Trait in Paris sparked *New York/Paris DIALOGUE Paris/New York*, and her connections to Agnes Murray at BAC, and to gallery directors at Long Island University in Brooklyn, The Center for Book Arts and The Henry Street Settlement made the exhibition's New York component possible.

Maddy finds that curating is much like making art. "I have made three dimensional works since I was a child - little theaters, cities and books. As a curator, I used other peoples' work as found objects and made a three dimensional sculpture. When I hung the shows I treated the spaces like one overall vision." The artist included her own work in these shows to illustrate her personal technique and aesthetic and because people always ask where she is coming from. "There is good precedent for this;" she says "Stieglitz put his photographs in his gallery's shows. And," she laughs as she says, "Clint Eastwood stars in his movies, and no one asks why." Maddy has a perfect attitude for an intrepid entrepreneurial artist. She aptly states, "Brooklyn is now a major part of the art world, and we can't act like a provincial outpost."

Maddy Rosenberg will have a solo exhibition of paintings at Safe-T-Gallery at 111 Front Street in DUMBO from April-May, 2006. Catalogues for *New York/Paris DIALOGUE Paris/New York* are available at BAC.

—Susan Rowland