

JANE MAXWELL: "IN YOUR FACE"

Acceptance vs. Perfection? Pressure vs. Empowerment? Nationally renowned, mixed media artist Jane Maxwell confronts these issues in her solo exhibition, "In Your Face." Focusing on the pervasive societal pressure women feel to look younger, her show features a series of 17 provocative paintings and sculptures.

Maxwell's newest series continues her thirty year-long visual exploration of cultural tensions related to the contemporary feminine ideal. The artwork is thickly layered with discarded boxes, vials and instruction packets from anti-aging products, along with advertising billboard papers peeled off walls in New York, Los Angeles and Paris.

These original, upcycled materials, collected over two years, have been stitched, sanded, glued and stapled to wood panels. Imagery features female silhouettes aggressively kicking or showing a hand toward the viewer in defiance, while others are seated in a posture of knowing ease.

Also featured are three compelling sculptures including a dress made from packaged syringes and ribbon boxes called "Red Carpet" and a Botox vial and crystal-encrusted chandelier floor lamp titled, "Shiny Objects."

Ultimately, says Maxwell, "In Your Face" is a judgement-free show. There is no good or bad, right or wrong. It is about pressure, conflict and empowerment - a woman's right to choose what works for her."

The artist extends a heartfelt thank you to: Becca Maxwell, Gretchen Cahaly and Malja Harvey.

