



STONE SCULPTURE BY MASHIKO

From Maquette to Monument
THE BETTY FRIEDAN MEMORIAL MONUMENT

September 12 – October 24, 2009

Opening reception
Saturday, September 12, 3-6 P.M.

at

Medialia... Rack and Hamper Gallery
335 W. 38th St., 4th Fl., New York NY 10018
tel: 212-971-0953 www.medialiangallery.com

Gallery Hours: Wednesday through Saturday, 12 - 5 p.m., and by appointment
For more information and visuals, please visit our website: www.medialiangallery.com

Mashiko was born in Tailien City, Manchuria, grew up in the city of Kyoto, Japan, and came to the USA in 1962. She has been living in New York since 1964. Until she left Japan for the United States, Mashiko studied painting under an influential master of the time, Kazuo Tsuboi. Her work was accepted into competitions at an early age and she exhibited alongside accomplished artists. In New York, Mashiko studied at the Brooklyn Museum Art School — having been awarded a Beckman Scholarship. It was at this school that she started carving wood and in the following year began to carve stone. Her initial material — oil painting — was replaced by silk-screen printing and pen-drawing. Her childhood passion for writing turned into working in the book-art format. She found the medallion art format as a method of combined expression in the early 90's. Since then, she has been encouraging this unique expression to artists as well as promoting it to collectors. Mashiko uses any art form and material that appeals to her feelings a particular moment, however, her theme always remains a constant.

Her theme came from experiencing various conditions of unfairness in her life. When she overcame this suppressed feeling, it became clear to her that all living beings have both reason and value. She expressed her theme in the following lines:

*From hidden pathways in the air
Deep in the sea
And some unknown space in the universe
I hear new lives approaching just a little before dawn*

This exhibition is highlighted by her commission to create a memorial monument for Betty Friedan (February 4, 1921- February 4, 2006), whose 1963 book — *The Feminine Mystique* — helped to reignite the second stage of the Women's Movement. Friedan remained a powerful figure as an activist and as a writer, and her contributions to American society are immense. Mashiko translated Friedan's ideas and vision to a book-like shape, and the movement and rhythm of her mind in wave motions.

The final monument in granite was installed at a cemetery in Sag Harbor, New York. In this exhibition, Mashiko's thinking process in maquettes are shown along with the final monument in smaller scale. Also shown in this exhibition is her work for monument ideas which started in the late 90's to 2006. The ideas are expressed in a palm-size medallion sculpture format to the different scales and type of stones. Photographs of the monument in the cemetery and the unveiling are part of the exhibition.

Also included in this exhibition is a granite work by Mashiko's assistant, John Lynch.

Mashiko's work in various formats are included in many public and private collections internationally. She teaches at The University of the Arts, Philadelphia, and is an independent curator. Mashiko is the founder of an art gallery and a nonprofit organization which promotes medallion art and helps young artists in New York. She serves on awards selection committees for various medal art organizations both nationally and internationally.

