



PATRICIA MAURIDES



## PATRICIA MAURIDES

Patricia Maurides' ongoing investigations of her genealogical roots as well as her biological predestinations, have resulted in remarkable juxtapositions. Photography, her first love, is still at the center of her work. Maurides also frequently employs her own body as her subject, or as a screen or conduit for memory play. The natural environment, studio sets and props, often coupled with slide projection, figure as backgrounds for her explorations rendering her work both theatrical and cinematic.

This past spring Maurides was given an opportunity to revisit the mountain village in southern Greece where her father was born. She recorded both imagery and sounds focusing on three locations: her grandfather's house, a small grove of Plane trees, and the river of Evrota. Upon her return, Maurides transformed the images from her trip into

contemporary icons as she mounted them on panels and layered them with high-gloss finishes, reminiscent of standard Grecian artifacts. She also added recorded sounds and spoken words, evocative of time past and passing.

Maurides refers to this recent exploration as "ancestral listening." What makes the work so compelling is the way she makes us witness the palpable reverence for her origin. The recorded acts that portray her attempts at ancestral listening are tender and sensitive, depicting both the timeliness and timelessness of the deeply rooted history of the place. While some acts are clearly comical, Maurides' hilarious willingness to poke fun at herself helps the work transcend from pure autobiography to art that engages us all.

Petra Fallaux  
Curator



## Ancestral Listening

In March 2007 I had an extraordinary opportunity as an artist in residence at the Coumantaros Art Gallery in Sparta, Branch of the National Gallery of Greece, to photograph and record the sounds of the village Arahova and the river Evrota, Greece.

The river Evrota extends across the Peloponnesian Peninsula south to the Mediterranean Sea. Ancient Sparta was on the west bank of the Evrota that stretches north of modern Sparta. Due to complex environmental circumstances, this beautiful river is predicted to disappear in less than a decade.

Arahova (also known as Karyes) is a mountain village located 30 miles north of Sparta and it is where my father and his siblings were raised. The people of Arahova and other mountain villages were central to the Greek Resistance during World War II. As a result, the Nazis burned the villages. The interior of my family's house was destroyed; however, the shell of the stone house survived.

Arahova is also home to a grove of ancient Plane trees (*Platanus orientalis*) believed to be over 2000 years old. The Plane trees are approximately 12 feet

wide with crevice openings you can pass through or linger inside. These trees are near the site where Artemis, goddess of the hunt and protector of all things wild, including children and animals, danced with her cult of maidens. These maidens were the inspiration for Karyatids: columns used in temples shaped to look like women draped in flowing dresses.

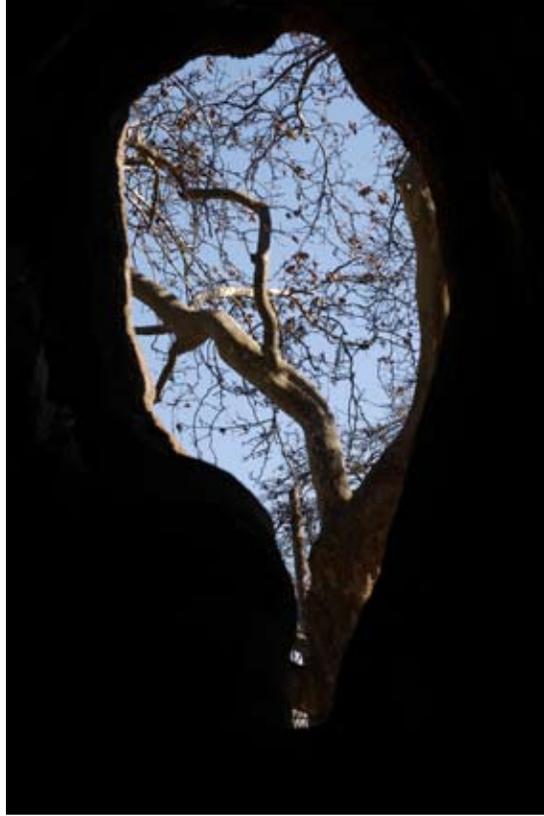
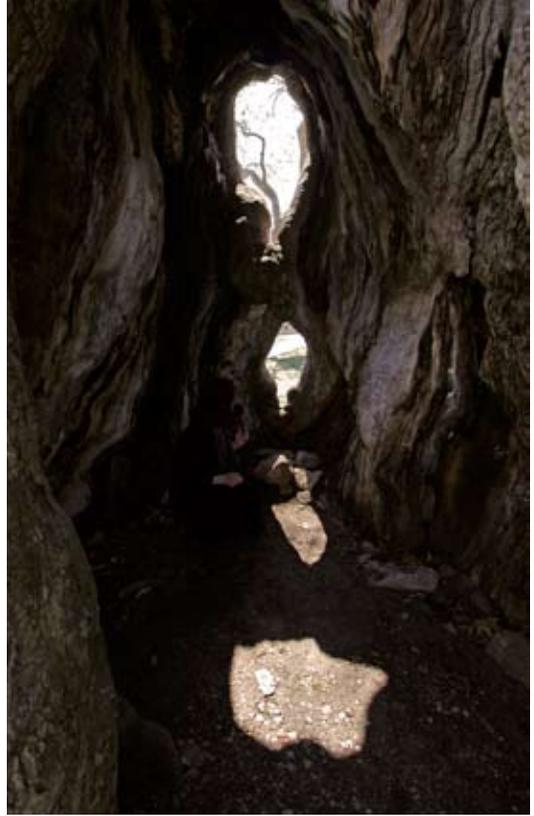
In addition, I struggle with the physiological aspects of mild conductive hearing loss. I often cup my hands around my ears to bring sound into focus. I find the use of 'ear horns' and 'ear trumpets' to be inspiring in both their effectiveness and as playful props for listening deep into the past.

I came to think of the crevice openings in the Plane trees as portals to the past. They formed the place where I began my photographic inquiries and audio recordings. This 'ancestral listening' soon evolved into a dialogue with the trees, the house/village and the river. These places listen and remember; they are keepers of secrets and it is my hope that my work honors them.

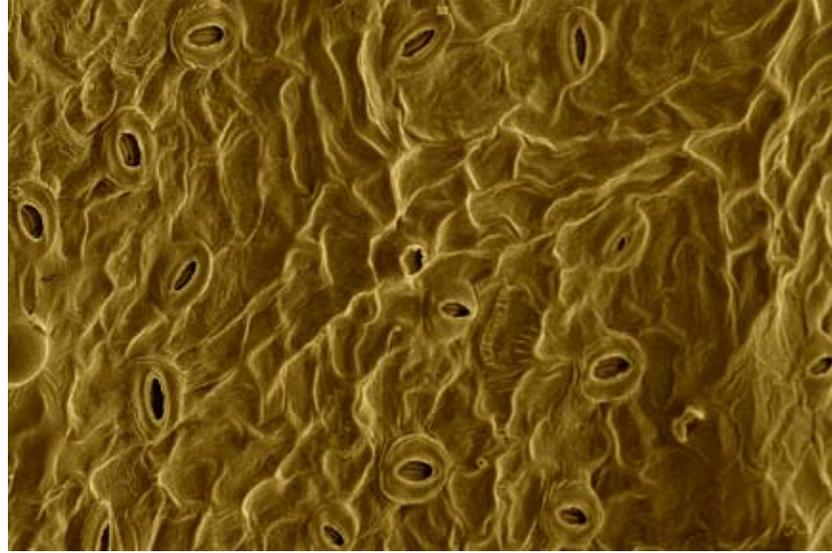
Patricia Maurides  
November 2007

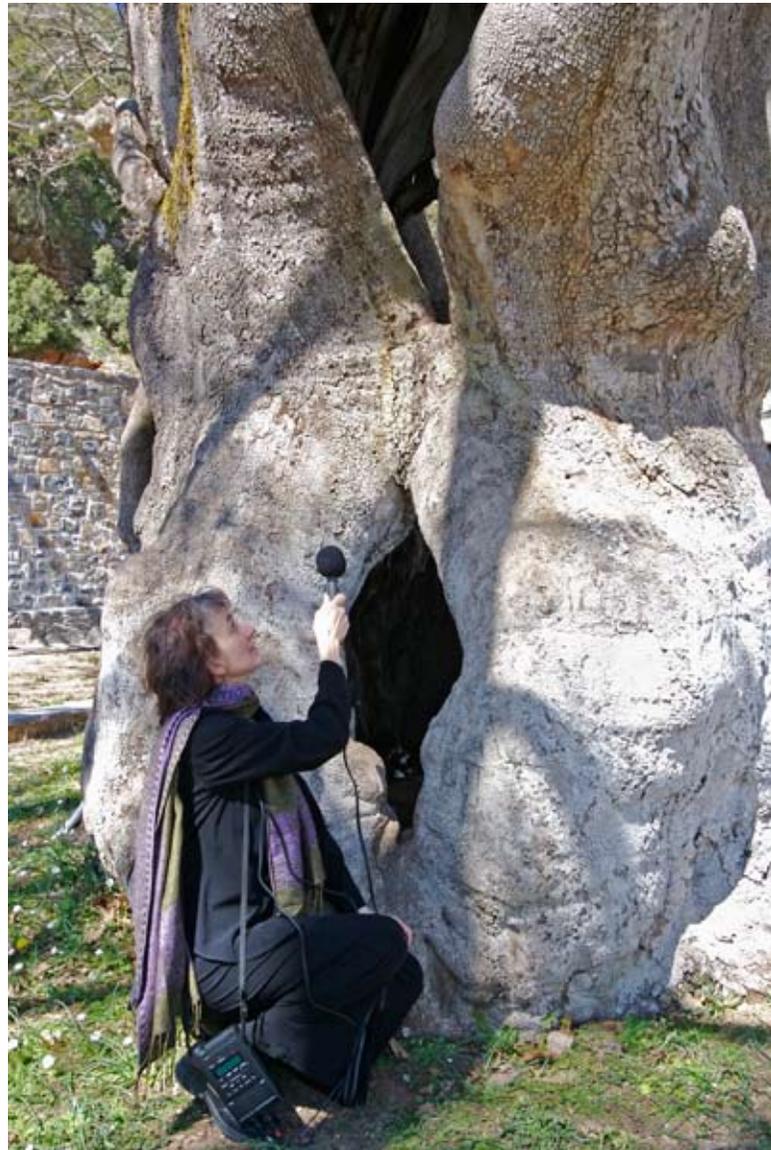












## Exhibition Checklist

*Ancestral Listening Installation* (image and sound), 2007

### Images

Mixed Media: archival digital prints mounted on painted birch plywood and layered with epoxy resin

- 1 *River Evrota*, 25" x 17"
- 2 *Plane Tree (Platanus orientalis)*, 13.5" x 9"
- 3 *House*, 13.5" x 9"
- 4 *Listening cone I*, 13.5" x 9"
- 5 *Ancient stones - Arahova*, 13.5" x 9"
- 6 *Arahova Karyatids*, 13.5" x 9"
- 7 *Listening cone II*, 13.5" x 9"
- 8 *Listening*, 9" x 13.5"
- 9 *Platanus Ear*, 9" x 13.5"
- 10 *Interview I – "really ?? , tell me.."* 9" x 13.5"
- 11 *Microphone*, 9" x 13.5"
- 12 *Interview II – "and...what about?.."* 9" x 13.5"
- 13 *Dialogue with an Ancient Plane Tree I*, 9" x 13.5"
- 14 *Dialogue with an Ancient Plane Tree II*, 9" x 13.5"
- 15 *Looking out*, 13.5" x 9"
- 16 *Interview III – "Say that again..."* 13.5" x 9"
- 17 *Trees*, 13.5" x 9"
- 18 *Inside*, 9" x 13.5"
- 19 *Portal*, 9" x 13.5"
- 20 *Running*, 9" x 13.5"
- 21 *Icon*, 9" x 13.5"
- 22 *Left Ear*, 9" x 13.5"
- 23 *Reaching tree*, 9" x 13.5"
- 24 *Magnifying cone*, 9" x 13.5"
- 25 *Fairies within (SEM, Platanus bark)*, 9"x13.5"
- 26 *River Evrota -Descending*, 13.5" x 9"
- 27 *Velvet Stomata (SEM, Platanus leaf)*, 9"x13.5"
- 28 *River Evrota - Wandering*, 13.5" x 9"
- 29 *River Evrota – Bull frog replys*, 13.5" x 9"
- 30 *River Evrota – Listening/recording*, 25" x 17"
- 31 *River Evrota - 4 minute video loop*

### Sound Recordings

All sounds were recorded while taking photographs, March 2007

- 1 *Mrs. Panousi (elderly neighbor) shares her memories of Arahova*
- 2 *Plane Trees – rustling in and out of trees, camera shutter*
- 3 *River Evrota – ambient river/bird sounds*

### Index Of Photos

**Front cover:** *River Evrota*, **Pages 1-2:** Exhibition photo, **Pages 3-4:** Exhibition photo, **Pages 5-6:** *Plane Tree (Platanus orientalis)*, *House*, *Listening cone I*, *Ancient stones - Arahova*, *Arahova Karyatids*, *Listening cone II*, **Pages 7-8:** *Listening*, *Platanus Ear*, *Dialogue with an Ancient Plane Tree I*, *Dialogue with an Ancient Plane Tree II*, **Pages 9-10:** *Inside*, *Icon*, *Left Ear*, *Reaching tree*, *Magnifying cone*, *Fairies within (SEM, Platanus bark)*, **Pages 11-12:** *River Evrota – listening/recording*, **Pages 13-14:** *River Evrota - Descending*, *Velvet Stomata (SEM, Platanus leaf)*, *River Evrota - Wandering*, *River Evrota – Bull frog replys*, **Pages 15:** *Microphone*, *Interview I – "really ?? , tell me.."*, **16:** Exhibition photo, **Pages 17-18:** Reception photo, **Back cover:** *Velvet Stomata (SEM, Platanus leaf)*, detail

## Biography

Patricia Maurides' multidisciplinary professional background includes a B.S. in biology from the University of South Carolina and a M.F.A. in art from Carnegie Mellon University. She frequently works collaboratively on projects that intersect the biological sciences and the visual arts: they include two multimedia planetarium shows for the Pittsburgh Carnegie Science Center's Henry Buhl Jr. Planetarium: Journey Into The Living Cell and Gray Matters - The Brain Movie.

From 1999-2006, Maurides served as academic director of The Bachelor of Humanities and Arts (BHA) and The Bachelor of Science and Arts (BSA) Degree Programs at Carnegie Mellon University. She continues to teach Art and Biology, an interdisciplinary studio-laboratory course.

Maurides has led a study abroad program, "Sparta, Greece, Inquiry and Vision," that gave students the opportunity to travel to Greece and pursue their own self-defined creative projects. Maurides is a recent recipient of a Greater Pittsburgh Artist Opportunity Grant, that enabled her to travel to Greece for her own artistic pursuits, as well as a recipient of previous grants from the Louisiana Division of the Arts, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

## Photography Credits

Art Photography: Tom Little Photography & Imaging  
Reception Photos & Catalogue Design: Margaret Cox

## Acknowledgements

Patricia Maurides would like to thank husband Chris Siefert for his support, studio and installation assistance; daughter Elizabeth Siefert for inspiration and her good eye; Dr. Georgia Kakourou Chroni, curator of the National Gallery of Greece for her wisdom and generosity; Mrs. Panousi for her hospitality and historical descriptions; Dylan Vitone for his generous assistance in the digital lab; the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council for making this project possible through a Greater Pittsburgh Artist Opportunity Grant; Petra Fallaux for her vision and friendship; the Miller Gallery staff Margaret Cox, Cara Erskine; the Miller Gallery crew, especially Michael Johnsen, for assisting with the installation.

In Spring 2008, "Ancestral Listening" will travel to the Coumantaros Gallery, Sparta, and the Malavasia Gallery, Monemvasia, in Greece.

**REGINA GOUGER MILLER GALLERY**

Purnell Center for the Arts  
Carnegie Mellon University  
5000 Forbes Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
15213-3890

[www.cmu.edu/millergallery](http://www.cmu.edu/millergallery)

412.268.3618

Open Tuesday - Sunday, 11:30am - 5:00pm

**PATRICIA MAURIDES**

November 8 - December 21, 2007

Opening Reception November 8, 5-8PM

Regina Gouger  
**MILLER**  
Gallery

**Carnegie Mellon**



The exhibitions and programs at the Miller Gallery are supported in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as well as the School of Art and the College of Fine Arts at Carnegie Mellon University.