



*Exuberant Bodies (The Garden of Evolution #6)*, 2011. Oil, graphite and charcoal on canvas, 36 x 24 in.

***STEP INTO A  
“GARDEN OF EVOLUTION”  
THIS FEBRUARY  
AT TWIST ETC.***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
High-resolution images available**

CONTACTS: Lori Anne Parker-Danley: 615.943.0742, [la@lorianeparker.com](mailto:la@lorianeparker.com)  
Maggie Carrigan: 309.657.1637, [maggie@twistartgallery.com](mailto:maggie@twistartgallery.com)

**SURVIVOR, ARTIST AND NATIONAL GO RED FOR WOMEN SPOKESPERSON,  
LORI ANNE PARKER-DANLEY, INVITES GUESTS TO STEP INTO A  
PROVOCATIVE “GARDEN OF EVOLUTION” THIS FEBRUARY AT  
TWIST ETC. IN THE DOWNTOWN ARCADE.**

**Gallery, exhibit will support the American Heart Association’s Go Red For Women movement.**

NASHVILLE, TENN.—(January 4, 2012)—Contemporary art gallery Twist Etc. features the work of Nashville-based artist Lori Anne Parker-Danley in an exhibition entitled *The Garden of Evolution* from Feb. 4–26, 2012. *The Garden of Evolution*, a multimedia installation, opens during the February downtown art crawl and includes a new series of mixed-media paintings, additional works, found objects and effects and a sound component by local guitarist and composer John Danley ([www.johndanley.com](http://www.johndanley.com)).

Lori Anne Parker-Danley and Twist Etc. gallery coordinator, Maggie Carrigan, are also using this very “body-centered” exhibition, which opens the first week of American Heart Month to support the American Heart Association’s Go Red For Women campaign by “Going Red” on opening night and also donating 10 percent of the artist’s proceeds to Go Red For Women.

Broadly conceived, *The Garden of Evolution* is an attempt to evoke the phenomenology of human corporeality, its relationships with the non-human natural world and its place in the history of evolution. The exhibition is inspired by questions of human/biological materiality that have interested Parker-Danley for many years, as well as the life-saving, emergency heart surgery she underwent in 2009, which focused her attention on these questions in a more profound, directly personal way. One of the most intense moments that happened in the days after her surgery was Parker-Danley’s experience of seeing her own heart (her surgeon took a picture of it with his iPhone during her operation). For Parker-Danley, “Seeing my own heart was akin to seeing my animality: the image of my heart in my cut-open chest, which could have been anybody’s heart in any cut-open chest, was jarring to me because of its biological anonymity. The heart I saw was mine, but I could never know as my own. It was me, but beyond me—the experience of looking into a mirror and staring at a stranger.”



*Oscar's Nightmare (The Garden of Evolution #4)*, 2011. Oil, human hair, snake skin and leaves on canvas, 30 x 40 in.

The new *The Garden of Evolution* series of paintings in the exhibition are a continuation of and departure from Parker-Danley's past work in terms of their increased expressiveness and the materials used to create them. "I am after paintings that aren't representations of bodies but highly physical, bodily moments in and of themselves. This effort has drawn me to new materials," says the artist. In addition to oil, graphite, and charcoal, some of the paintings in the series include elements such as cat fur, twigs, cicada exoskeletons, human hair, orchids, foliage, moss, snakeskins and sculpted paper. Instead of using these materials to "augment" the paintings, the artist puts these additional materials and objects in conversation with the paint and makes them part of her gestures and brushstrokes. The use of various nontraditional media is also another way of expressing the subject matter of the work itself, generally the connections, transformations, and relationships between natural life forms that are part of the evolutionary process.

The exhibition at Twist Etc. has been an opportunity for the artist to push her work even further in direct response to the particular environment of the gallery space. As such, *The Garden of Evolution* is not simply an exhibit of paintings, but a larger on-site, multimedia art installation as well.

In her artist's statement about the exhibition and its relationship to the experience of undergoing heart surgery and seeing her own heart, Parker-Danley writes:

"To see one's own heart is an invitation to notice the repetition of forms, to hear the echo that beats in the chests of a billion others, to understand that there is nothing special or significant or even that original about your own heart even though it is necessary for you to live. To see one's own heart is also an opportunity—to see through it, past it, to notice and recall patterns—such as the chambers of a human heart alongside the heart of a feline or the spiraling twist of the human inner ear alongside the curves of a buoyant nautilus or the branches of alveoli in the lungs of a rabbit that might remind one of a cove of trees. Repeating forms evoke our connections and common origin, our shared animal-plant biology. Repeating forms invite us to contemplate our existence as part of the material world and the fact that human life is but a single, small, beautiful moment in a much larger 4.5 billion-year planetary history. The Garden of Evolution is the place we all begin and a place where everything is made of stardust. The Garden of Evolution is also a dream, the other side of waking life, the strangeness that is familiar, and the constant striving where forms both old and new emerge, mingle, and transform yet again."

Lori Anne Parker-Danley is a Nashville-based artist with a Ph.D. in philosophy from Binghamton University in upstate New York. Among the artists who inspire her are Hyman Bloom, Chaïm Soutine, Elaine DeKooning, and Anselm Kiefer. She is also influenced by the imagery, ideas, and playfulness of the Surrealists—especially Remedios Varo and Leonora Carrington—and broadly considers her work to be a conversation between expressionism and surrealism, albeit from a contemporary perspective.

As a national spokesperson for the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women campaign since 2010 and a woman who had two heart attacks and bypass surgery at the age of 38 in 2009 (even though she "never thought it would happen to her"), Parker-Danley has been using her art as a way to help get the word out about the risks of heart disease in women. She had her first "Art for the Heart" event in February 2011 at Rumours Wine and aRT Bar, 12 South, Nashville, which was well received. With *The Garden of Evolution*, showing at Twist Etc. in February 2012, she is continuing these efforts. In honor of American Heart Month and Go Red For Women, Parker-Danley and Twist Etc. will Go Red by donating 10 percent of the artist's proceeds from exhibition sales to Go Red For Women and lighting part of the gallery in red on the exhibition's opening night, Feb. 4. Informational materials from the American Heart Association will also be available to gallery patrons throughout the exhibition.

By working with Maggie Carrigan at Twist Etc. to use *The Garden of Evolution* as an opportunity to Go Red, Lori Anne Parker-Danley hopes the two will inspire people, especially women, to become more aware of their own heart health. As someone who doesn't fit the profile for being at risk of a heart attack, she initially ignored her own symptoms since she had no reason to think heart trouble could happen to her. "If someone who comes into Twist Etc. is motivated to learn more about the symptoms of a heart attack and their own health risks, by noticing our Go Red efforts, hearing about my story, or seeing my work and knowing what inspired it, then my openness about the relationship between my art and my

health crisis is worth it. Heart disease is the number one killer of women in the United States; before my heart attacks, I didn't know that," says Parker-Danley.

For more information:

Artist Lori Anne Parker-Danley: [www.orianneparker.com](http://www.orianneparker.com); [la@orianneparker.com](mailto:la@orianneparker.com)

Twist Etc.: [www.twistartgallery.com/](http://www.twistartgallery.com/)

Musician John Danley: [www.johndanley.com](http://www.johndanley.com)

American Heart Association, Go Red for Women: [www.goredforwomen.org](http://www.goredforwomen.org)

Twist Etc., at 77 Arcade, Nashville, Tennessee, 37219, is open Thursdays and Fridays from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. *The Garden of Evolution* will be on view from Feb. 4–26, 2012.

# # #