

# THE PROMISE

*"My beloved children, I promise you a future like an emperor's child."*

*The use of black rice is a historical allusion to the Chinese tradition of the Emperor's forbidden black rice which was only available to the upper class.*

*Gilded objects from nature, such as stones and sticks, are buried in the rice symbolizing the preciousness of our natural world.*

*Five gilded chairs sit in the center. Five is a recurring pattern throughout the exhibition: five continents, five colors of the Olympic flag, and five parts of the human body.*

*The chairs and rice create a hopeful tableau, but gilded branches above cast a shadow over them. Paintings from the artists' "Nature/Nurture" series are exhibited.*





# SYMBIOTIC TANGO

*In "Symbiotic Tango," our conversation flows with a continuing path of black rice, but now the black rice is mixed with bleached white rice. The five additional gilded wooden chairs are now objects in disarray.*

*Hidden within the abstract paintings are endless treasures and situations. The work beckons the viewer to look deeper into each painting and discover the endless symbols hidden within each artwork.*





# NATURE / NURTURE

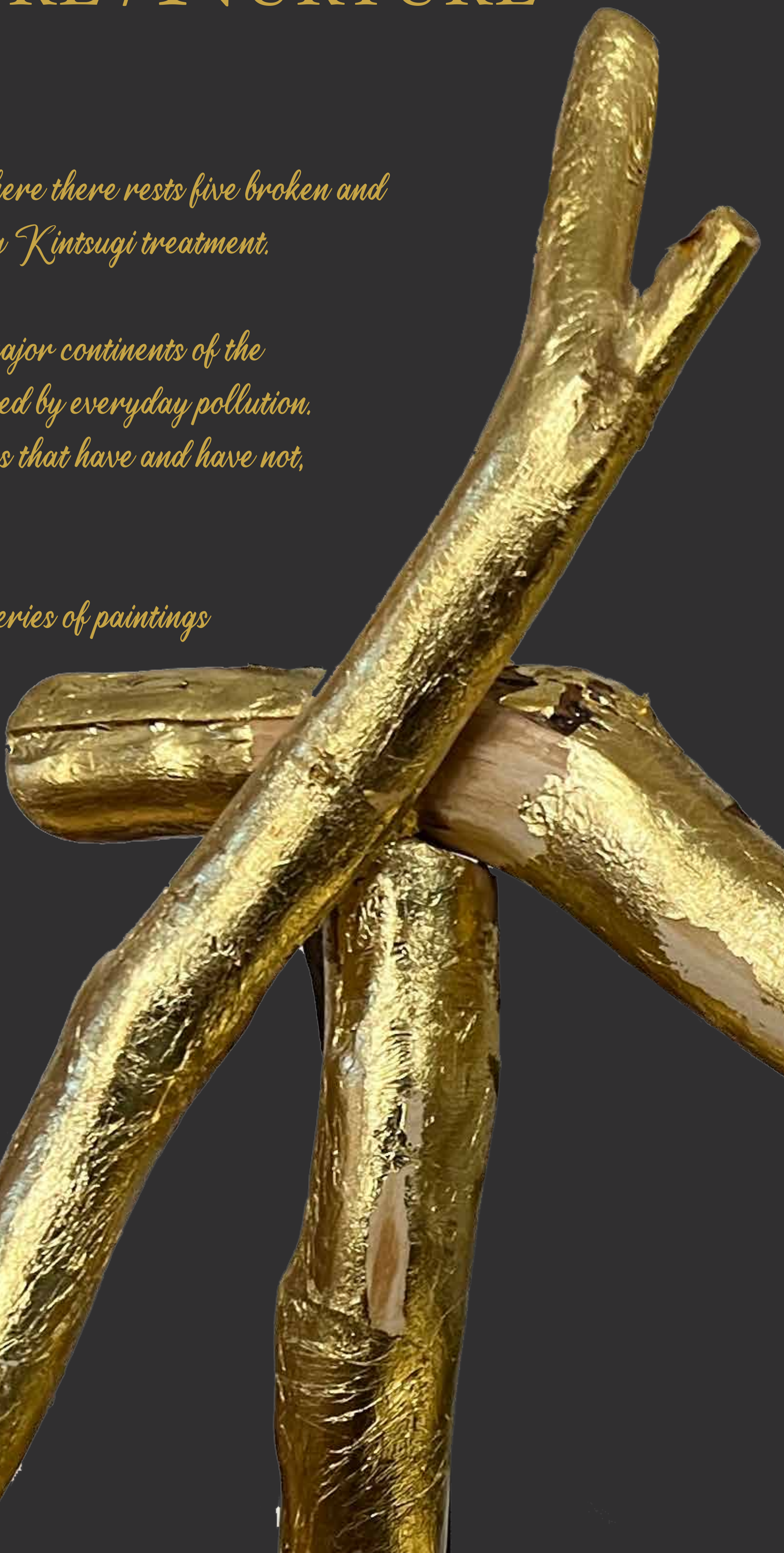
*White rice has been scattered where there rests five broken and partially repaired clay bowls using Kintsugi treatment.*

*The five bowls represent the five major continents of the world. These continents are poisoned by everyday pollution. These bowls symbolize the countries that have and have not, abundance versus scarcity.*

*Surrounding the installation is a series of paintings*

*titled "Nature/Nurture."*

*The paintings reference the attempt to excavate the form and beauty of nature that is threatened by our human abuse.*

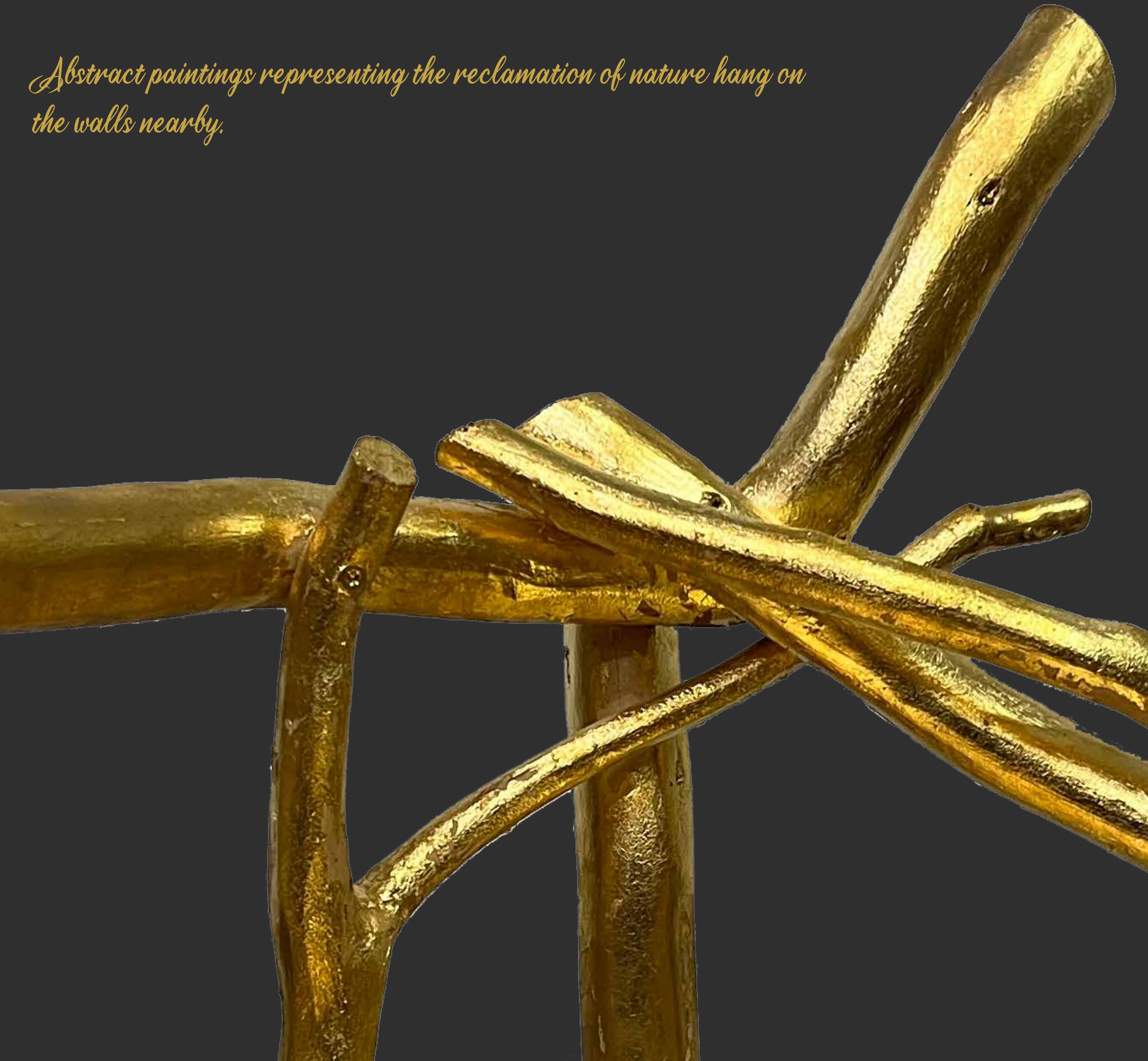




# BEAUTY IS HARSH

*This space is flanked by two large canvases painted with earth and other natural materials. A story unfolds on the hanging curtains which hold sculptural masks, ceramic faces, gilded sticks, leaves, and embroidered mice. These curtains symbolize the dichotomy of human folly and nature's perseverance.*

*Abstract paintings representing the reclamation of nature hang on the walls nearby.*





# LOOK FROM THE EDGE

*In the center of the room rests the sculpture "The Truth in the Roots" completed with another series of paintings titled "Perpetuity Question." A straw goddess sculpture lies supine on a gurney beneath the tree. A small cart rests beneath the tree which carries an anvil with an egg on top. This represents the strength of nature and the simultaneous fragility of our world.*

*The floor is covered in straw as viewers walk in on the reclining form of the straw goddess. Straw is used to symbolize what is left behind from the harvest that feeds us. The straw goddess is partially gilded; she lies on a wheeled gurney and is burdened by a corset of lead. The lead corset is reminiscent of lead poisoning, but mushrooms sprouting out of her body signal nature taking over. Among the straw at the visitor's feet are plastic objects of artifice.*

*"The Truth in the Roots" sculpture stands gilded and exposed. From the roots hang human hands as if to be a warning. It is an altar of devotion to Nature's immeasurable beauty, but it is threatened and solemn, asking to be protected and recognized.*

*Two human forms reside in this space; these suitcase forms are titled "Into the Unknown." The work speaks to the weight that we carry and the baggage that we hold. What are you carrying with you? Can you let it go?*

*The three looming female figures are titled "The Oracles of New York / Listen, See, Scream." They represent the final farewell.*

*Artists Michelle Gagliano and Beatrix Ost leave the viewer with this food for thought: 'What can we do to help this earth? What can still be recreated? What can we do for our children's future... For the future of humanity's existence? We need to listen, see and scream louder! We need to turn our world around. Turn it, turn it, turn it ...'*

