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What she loves

By Edith Newhall, For The Inquirer
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Since her last show with Gallery Joe in 2008, Emily Brown has been looking deep into the forest again, and it's one subject of her large, delicate sumi ink paintings on paper in the front room of the gallery. Roses, full-blown and tinged pink with thinned acrylic, are another.

Brown, who has been given the entire gallery for her current show, has also re-created a version of her own studio in the gallery's Vault space, giving viewers an insight into her inspirations (her favorite books, catalogs, and treasured objects are on a table in the center of the room), her habit of returning to subjects (she has covered the walls with informal arrangements of watercolors, paintings, drawings, and collages from the '60s to the present that demonstrate her ongoing interests in landscape, her own domestic interior and life, and found objects), and the way she develops new subjects.

In *Fasteners* (2011), Brown has superimposed found paper, old-fashioned clothing fasteners mounted on cards, and a drawing of studies of figurines onto a sumi-ink painting of branches. One ink painting of a view of woods, *Untitled*, begun this year, is still in progress and not for sale (drawings of Brown's daughter as a child and some other works also are not for sale). The installation could be considered a retrospective of all the things that Brown has kept close at hand - and that come into play again and again.

There are so many wonderful new works in this show, it's hard to pick just a few, but the ones I went back to again and again were her large new paintings in the front - I never would have imagined allover paintings of roses as Brown has done them, as if viewed from above - and *Downstream at Eric's* (2010) in the Vault, a celebratory landscape that encapsulates everything Brown does best.

Gallery Joe, 302 Arch St., 12 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays. Information: 215-592-7752 or www.galleryjoe.com. Through Dec. 18.