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Rosemarie Castoro: Brushstrokes on view  
By Richard Goldstein

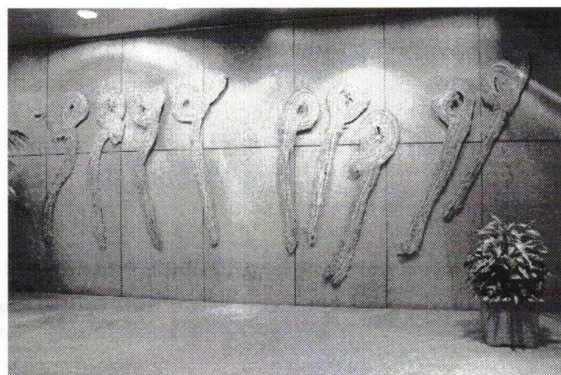
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Hanging against the granite walls of 150 E 52<sup>nd</sup> Street building's lobby are several grand dashes of gesso not to be missed. They blend graciously and unassumingly with the grain of the stone, but stand out with the impact and haste of a gesture most striking. However bold and decisive the mark, Rosemarie Castoro always leaves space for the experience, the interpretation, to see. In this particular space, of ambiguity and insinuation lies the seduction of art - just enough for the viewer to connect and reciprocate with meaning and memory.

Upon entering the lobby between two potted palms is a dramatic stroke—a river, jetty, none but *An Armpit Hair Coming From the Corner of a Room*. The quirky humor of Castoro's work is ever-present and a welcome twist subverting the works' own authority and interrupting its own meditative qualities with a laugh. The humor and absurdity keeps the work from 1972 fresh and at pace with contemporary work. In the latest issue of *Art Review* John Bock, likens making a movie to "when you put a nose hair on a cuticle," Castoro's work here recalls this quip, and is sharp as ever. The formal and linguistic cleverness is succinct as well in *Party of Nine*, a grouping comprised of nine figures of nines. Party or not, the artist always goes deeper than mere wit, in her *Statements on Being*, she likens "Groups of people [to] the smoldering fires of unconsciousness." Whether a party or armpit hair, there is always a reference or shadow of the body Castoro leaves behind. Obviously, such traces of the body are reminiscent of Louise Bourgeois and Eva Hesse.

Rosemarie is a native New Yorker living and working here for fifty years. She has extensive exhibitions in the USA and Europe and has work in numerous public and private collections. She is a sculptor, painter, writer, and educator.

This installation has coincided with a striking exhibition of Castoro's works downtown at Hal Bromm Gallery in Tribeca. Complimentary to each other, the lobby installation at 150 East 52 Street brings viewers the unique opportunity to view two of Castoro's large-scale pieces in situ, on view through Wednesday, May 9.



left: *An Armpit Hair Coming From the Corner of a Room*, 1972, courtesy of the artist

right: *Party of Nine*, 1972, courtesy of the artist