

**Artist Statement: If I Had Wings.**

*'If I Had Wings'*, was installed at the Ceres Gallery in New York and uses flight and the desire to fly as a metaphor for human creativity, suggesting that the drive to create is inherently glorious and absurd. Entering the space, you are surrounded with motors dangling from the walls like cobwebs and as a motion detector senses your movement it triggers the motors to vibrate and whirl without purpose or function. Ultramarine blue pigment covers the gallery walls and painted on top are rhythmic lines derived from the migratory patterns of monarch butterflies. The words longing, desiring, wishing, and craving are scrawled backwards on the walls, a nod to da Vinci's notebooks, and the sound of someone softly breathing the words in and out like sighs fills the room. Small unfinished paintings of different species of moths and butterflies are hung askew on the walls and interspersed by panels covered with mirrors. The mirrors reflect the backwards text so it is readable and the viewer sees herself in fragments as she moves about the space. Reproductions of Leonardo da Vinci's sketchbook drawings of flying machines, a model for the human imagination and accomplishment, are folded into paper airplanes and lie useless in piles on the floor. No element or gesture in the exhibition is allowed to reach fruition: unfinished paintings, motors that do nothing, migration patterns that lead no where and yet desire and longing fill the space and drive us to continue to create. This desire endows us with spectacular potential and an often unwelcome responsibility.