

## A REQUIEM FOR RAVAGED TREES KORMAN'S REVISIONIST LANDSCAPES

By DEBRA BANERJEE



"Willow" by Barbara Korman

Created over the last "four or five years," Korman told the Inquirer at the opening Jan. 31, the "evolution of works" are her response to the devastation of storm-felled trees near her home and studio near the botanical garden in the Bronx. The avid naturalist and environmentalist keenly felt the permanent loss of trees in her urban environment. "Something has to happen beyond mulch," Korman recalled saying to herself at the time. "My work is informed by nature. I believe even more abstracted art is based on relationships that are found in nature," she said.

Korman scavenged for branches. Part of her art includes making photographic notations of the land's textures and formations. "I'm always taking photos of trees," she said. She combined the photos with the branches and "found it exciting" to "manipulate space," and play with "illusion and reality," she said.

Artist Barbara Korman sees the forest for the trees, and the trees for the branches in "Revisionist Landscapes" at Madelyn Jordan Fine Art, on exhibit through March 2.

In her small-scale, mixed-media panels, Korman incorporates debris from recent storm-ravaged trees with photography, painting and sculpture to create a thought-provoking body of work.

Using manipulated photographs taken both locally and on trips and affixing bits of rescued branches, Korman "explores the intersection of reality and perception," according to press material, with her stark yet graceful assemblages in black and white and shades of gray that are "simultaneously photorealistic and impressionist." Korman uses branches that closely mimic the form in the photographs. In some works, the three-dimensional element of branches is hard to distinguish.



"Bronx Branches" by Barbara Korman