

## [Download] Emilie Brzezinski - the Lure of the Forest



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Emilie Brzezinski began her art career in the 1970s, initially working in a variety of media such as plastic, latex and wood fiber. Equally inspired by Minimalism and natural forms, her early work consisted of transparent resin casts of trees and site-specific arrangements of expressionistic, figurative molds. Since the early 1990s, she has focused entirely on monumental wood sculpture, using a chainsaw and axe to carve forms that breathe new life into found wood--arches, bowls, chairs, columns and discs. "Nature has a grand design," she writes, "but its manifestations unfold in imperfection and specificity. Respect to this persistent individuality in natural form is the underpinning of my work as I carve the trunk, I retain the essential outline and gesture of the tree." Brzezinski's sculptural approach, which conjures the work of artists as varied as David Nash, Magdalena Abakanowicz and Ursula von Rydingsvard, celebrates the knots, hollows, wounds and cracks of wood, and the myriad possibilities suggested by organic forms. "The Lure of the Forest," designed by Katy Homans, explores the entirety of the artist's career, documenting over 80 works. Highlights include her magnum opus "Forest" (1997-2005), a monumental work composed of 46 tree trunks, and "Family Trees" (2010-2013), in which she combines sculpture and photography to create a vivid portrait of her family members. In addition to contributions by art historians John Beardsley, Barbara Rose and Aneta Georgievska-Shine, the book includes an introduction by Mika Brzezinski, co-host of MSNBC's "Morning Joe" and the artist's daughter. Born in 1932 in Geneva, Switzerland, Emilie Brzezinski immigrated to the US and grew up in California. She graduated from Wellesley College in Massachusetts with a degree in the history of art. During the last two decades, the artist has had many gallery and museum installations in the US and overseas. Her work is in the permanent collection of the Corcoran Museum, Washington, DC

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