
ART IN REVIEW

Maureen McCabe

'Enchantments'

*Kouros Gallery
23 East 73rd Street
Manhattan
Through July 13*

A highly inventive fantasy is behind these delicate assemblages. Their rich imagery draws on myths and ancient tales, religious symbols, charms, superstitions, the animal kingdom, the heavens and many other sources, including lore from the Ireland of Ms. McCabe's ancestors.

"Hag's Hill" (1990), resulting from a visit to an ancient cemetery in the hills overlooking County Meath, depicts a stele in stark black on a black slate ground, covered with runes, while other signs and symbols, among them carved pebbles, a star fish and a ringed half moon, dance in attendance.

Somewhat more complex is "Young Fortuneteller With Mojo Bag" (1995), a Mexican-inspired

fantasia that depicts a sparkly seeress in bright-colored clothes surrounded by a *mélange* of images. Among them are a wheel of fortune and cards mounted on a pinball machine board. In the densely packed panel "Fish" (2000), Ms. McCabe leaves no sea flora or fauna unvisited; it's an underwater forest primeval of fish, seahorses, shells, seaweed and other plant life, with the numbers 1, 2 and 3 mysteriously placed among them. The riddles of these carefully plotted and cleverly executed works are a challenge that adds to their appeal.

GRACE GLUECK
