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IN THE GALLERIES

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John H. Brown Jr.

The Arbor Series

The solidity of trees and the delicacy of their blooms provide the graphic tension in John H. Brown Jr.'s photographs. His "Arbor Series," at Cross MacKenzie Gallery, includes views of silhouetted pines, their branches and needles often divided among multiple frames. To this strategy, familiar from previous shows, the local artist has added both subtle color and new depths.

Brown's photos are mostly high-contrast, but the stark black outlines are sometimes softened by the pink, yellow or purple of cherry, dogwood or wisteria. Other pictures have been printed on translucent vellum and layered so that hazy shapes are visible behind the primary image. The effect is subtle and simple, yet evocative of greater things. The shadowy forms imply the rest of the forest, as well as what's beyond.



The Arbor Series: John H. Brown Jr. On view through Jan. 11 at Cross MacKenzie Gallery, 1675 Wisconsin Ave. NW. 202-337-7970. crossmackenzie.com.