

PRESS RELEASE  
4/14/2017



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **UVAA Galleries – New Art Exhibits Opening at UVAA**

Beginning Friday, May 5 through June 30, 2017, the Umpqua Valley Arts Association (UVAA) is proud to announce five new exhibits. The opening reception will take place Friday, May 5, 2017 from 5-7pm.

The **Student Gallery** will feature *Artsy Lancer : A collection of work by South Umpqua High School Students*. Art Instructor Emily Figueroa-Wolfe's students display a variety of mediums and topics within their ultra creative works.

Featured in the **Hallie Brown Ford Gallery** is the seventh annual *ArtWorks Northwest* Exhibit: A regional juried exhibit of work made by artists working in the Pacific Northwest (Northern California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alaska, British Columbia, Western Montana, and Western Wyoming). The call was open to all media and features the best regional artists working in the Pacific Northwest. We are excited to announce that out of 500+ submissions, 46 works were chosen by our juror, Scott Malbaurn, to form this year's ArtWorks Northwest exhibit.

About our Juror, Scott Malbaurn: Prior to his appointment as Director of Southern Oregon University's Schneider Museum of Art, Scott Malbaurn was the Acting Assistant Chairperson of Fine Arts at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY and oversaw the undergraduate Fine Arts program in the areas of drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, jewelry and ceramics. Malbaurn also worked at the Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum located in Queens, NY where he worked in the Curatorial and Collections Department as well as Noguchi's Design Department. Malbaurn has an extensive background in independent curatorial work in New York and has had his own work displayed in many professional exhibits nationally and internationally.

This year's ArtWorks Northwest Artists:

**Lewis Anderson - Trudy Barnes - David Becker - Rich Bergeman - Marjorie Black  
Laura Buchan - Sarah Burns - Colleen Chronister - Renee Couture - Laurie Danial  
- Bill Dilley - Doyle Tallmandge - Lisa Flowers Ross - John Francis - Keaton  
Garnet - Brad Gooch - Susan Harrington - Joel Heidel - Tiffany Hokanson - Jan  
Hoy - Nicholas Hullibarger - Richard Hutter - Bill Jamison - Cleo Kale - Erinn  
Kathryn - David Kinker - Sarah LaBarre - Kathryn Lesh - Diana Licon - Clare  
Matthews - Danny McCarty - Richard Newman Eric Olander - Susan Pavel  
Whitney Rolfe - Richard Rollins - Sarah Sedwick - Kit Sibert - Olga Skorokhod**

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**Raymond Snyder - Michael Southern - Brooke Walker-Knoblich - Naona Wallin  
Matt Witt - Richard Worthey**

In the **Entryway and Corridor Gallery** is *Printmaking Now: A juried exhibition* featuring printmaking from artists nationwide. The subjects within the works vary to give viewers an insight into the differing ways artists are using media.

About the juror, Charlene Liu was Born in Taiwan and raised in the American Midwest. Liu is an Associate Professor and Printmaking Coordinator in the Department of Art at the University of Oregon, Eugene. Combining printmaking and digital processes, Liu's work juxtaposes the natural landscape, cultural tropes, and biographical references to explore complexities of identity and place. She received her MFA from Columbia University (New York) in 2003 and a BA from Brandeis University (Waltham, MA) in 1997. Recent noteworthy exhibitions include a solo show at Elizabeth Leach Gallery (Portland, OR) and site projects for the Portland Biennial 2016 at Crow's Shadow Institute for the Arts and the Rivoli Theater in Pendleton, OR. Her work is represented in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art (New York), the New Museum (New York), the Tacoma Art Museum, corporate and private collections.

In the **Red Gallery** is the work of Renee Couture in an exhibit titled *I Am a Country Made of Changing Places*. For this exhibit Renee explores the idea of barriers and borders. She says, "The fence is a man-made barrier that shows ownership. Fences enclose, surround, confine, separate, protect, and keep out. By fencing in a piece of land, a space becomes specific. It becomes my place or your place or our place. They become separate but connected, and filled with memory, longing, and desire." As an artist, place is fundamental to Renee Couture's studio work and research. She uses her own rural community as a starting point for her work in examining the tension between social well-being and ecological integrity.

Couture graduated from Buena Vista University (Storm Lake, IA) with a BA in Studio Art and Spanish. She spent the next four years rambling throughout the United States and South America working a wide range of jobs from camp counselor to wild land fire fighter, gourmet goat cheese maker to international backpacker to bank employee. She moved to Oregon in 2004 after completing Peace Corps service in Bolivia. Couture has taught a range of art courses in children's camps in the United States and abroad. She earned her MFA in Visual Art from Vermont College of Fine Arts in Montpelier. Couture currently teaches art at Umpqua Community College and volunteers at UVAA.

**Gallery II** features the work of Oregon Artists, Beth I. Robinson and Beverly Soasey in their collaborative exhibition titled *Unspoken*. The artists share a love for found objects, collage, cut edges and the *unspoken*. In particular, they are interested in narratives that are missing, left out,

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or forgotten. Together they have selected a unique collection of objects which have inspired this new body of work. Some of the objects have made it into the actual artwork while others may be mere fragments or ghosts within the materials, pencil lines or patterns. Through collaborative dialogue and observation, the two artists capture the momentary voice of these objects within visual narratives created by their individual interpretation and process. Their work captures narratives beneath the surface, individual perception, and the things often left unsaid, giving the viewer dual representation for each object.

**Exhibition Dates for All Galleries: May 5 – June 30, 2017**

**Reception for All Galleries: Friday, May 5, 2017 from 5-7pm**

*The public is invited to attend this free opening reception for the exhibit.*

*Exhibits at the Umpqua Valley Arts Association are always free, and are open to the public Tuesday - Friday from 10AM - 4PM and Saturday from 10AM - 2PM. For further information, call (541) 672-2532 or visit [uvarts.com](http://uvarts.com).*