Mills College
5000 MacArthur Blvd.
Oakland, CA 94613
www.mills.edu

MILLS

PRESS RELEASE
Contact:
Maysoun Wazwaz, Program Manager
mwazwaz@mills.edu, (510) 430-3340

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 7, 2014

Mills College MFA Exhibition
May 4-25, 2014

Opening Reception: Saturday, May 3, 2014 | 6:00-8:00 pm | MCAM
Video Screening: Saturday, May 10, 2014 | 4:00-6:00 pm | Danforth Hall, Mills College

Oakland, CA—April 7, 2014. The Mills College Art Museum is pleased to announce *Mixed Messages,* the 2014 MFA Exhibition on view from May 4-25, 2014. *Mixed Messages* features work in a wide range of media—painting, photography, sculpture, installation, video, and performance—created by the emerging artists of the Mills College MFA in Studio Art Program. Students showcase a final body of work produced as the culmination of their graduate experience—two years of research, experimentation, and refinement of their artistic practice. This exhibition offers 12 individual voices all responding to the contradictions and ambivalence of contemporary life.

This year's presenting artists are Gwynessa Balvanz, Sarah Beckstrom, Veva Edelson, Heather Engen, Dave Young Kim, William Koone, Margaret Lawless, David Mohr, Kate Rhoades, Lucienne Silva, Susan L. Sternberg, and Kelsey Thorne.

THE ARTISTS

Gwynessa Balvanz seeks to understand human vulnerability through detailed, almost scientific, investigation. Acting as a lens with which to view the world, her paintings and sculptures reveal a path to deeper self-awareness.

Sarah Beckstrom's Shipping Container HOME Project is a practical undertaking of building a home. Through the designing and building of a sustainable shipping container home, Beckstrom engages in a practice of deconstruction and reclamation, connection and collaboration, and of activating new possibilities.

Veva Edelson uses humble materials and processes—pencil on paper, photography, and fired clay—to explore the visual effects of texture and density. Repeated simple gestures, such as crumpling and erasing, express and obscure information. The resulting enigmatic forms invite touch and evoke emotional associations.

Heather Engen explores the subjective sensate experience through materials and form. Her sculptural and interdisciplinary works focus on visual to physical sensation, which imagines the viewer's corporeal experience completing the artwork.

Using layers of paper, paint and found surfaces as a metaphor for the experiences we accumulate, **Dave Young Kim** creates large-scale works that combine street art aesthetics with more traditional painterly sources.

William Koone makes drawings, sculptures, and photographs that deconstruct photography's current condition of mediation and super-saturation used to propagate brands and lifestyles. His work urges the viewer to contemplate these constructions and the greater effect of a population that rapidly consumes imagery and contributes to it.

In a process called creative destruction, **Margaret Lawless** creates work that reflects our modern economic landscape. By repeating a cyclical process of construction and deconstruction in her work, Lawless exposes our simultaneous desire and resistance to the new replacing the old.

Using charcoal and paint on canvas, **David Mohr** creates images that exist in between depth and flatness, bringing attention to the surface while suggesting nuances in space and form.

Through her often comedic works, **Kate Rhoades** tackles high art problems with low art tools. Rhoades probes the absurdity and contradictions of the art world through her videos, zines, and paintings.

Lucienne Silva's paintings, drawings, and sculptures create an immersive environment and animistic landscape that reflect her consideration of land as figure.

Through photography, sculpture and installation, **Susan L. Sternberg** explores the concept of binaries and highlights the way in which an equation can create separation, borders, and dichotomies.

Kelsey Thorne creates installations, drawings, videos, and performances that corral and then distill the physical and psychological implications of an excessive and addictive athletically driven lifestyle.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS
Visit mcam.mills.edu for full details.

MIXED MESSAGES Opening Reception
Saturday, May 3, 2014 | 6:00-8:00 pm | MCAM

Join MCAM and the 2014 MFA artists for the opening of *Mixed Messages*. As part of the opening festivities, MFA artist Gwynessa Balvanz invites you to participate in her installation *Wishing* while MFA artist Veva Edleson makes available her *Wearable Drinking Vessels*.

CONTEST: Post your images from the opening reception on Instagram using #millsmfa2014. The top two images will win a Hung Liu fortune cookie!

Shipping Container HOME Project Events
Front Porch Time
Wednesday, May 7, 14, & 21 5:00–7:00 pm | at the Container, MCAM

Documentary Movie Screening
May 15 & 16, 7:00 pm and May 18 at 2:00 pm | Danforth Hall, Mills College

MFA artist Sarah Beckstrom hosts multiple events related to *Shipping Container HOME Project*. Additional events are being planned as part of this project. Check mcam.mills.edu for updates.

MIXED MESSAGES Video Screening 2014
Saturday, May 10, 2014 | 4:00–6:00 pm Danforth Hall, Mills College

Join the artists in *Mixed Messages* for a screening of video work created during their two years at Mills.

About the Mills College Art Museum
Founded in 1925, The Mills College Art Museum is a forum for exploring art and ideas and a laboratory for contemporary art practices. Through innovative exhibitions, programs, and collections, the museum engages and inspires the intellectual and creative life of the Mills community as well as the diverse audiences of the Bay Area and beyond. mcam.mills.edu

Museum hours are Tuesday-Sunday 11:00 am-4:00 pm and Wednesday 11:00 am-7:30 pm. Admission is FREE for all exhibitions and programs unless noted.

###

ikon
OLYMPUS

TWO
THREE
FOUR
FIVE
SIX
7
8
9
10
11
12