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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 13, 2015



Terra Incognita 2015 Mills College MFA Exhibition May 3-31, 2015

Opening Reception: Saturday, May 2, 2015 | 6:00-8:00 pm | MCAM

Oakland, CA—April 13, 2015. The Mills College Art Museum is pleased to announce *Terra Incognita*, the 2015 MFA Exhibition on view from May 3-31, 2015. The term *terra incognita*, translated from Latin to mean unknown land, generally refers to unknown or unexplored territory. In cartography, it was a term used to define early maps of lands that had yet to be named or explored. For the artists in *Terra Incognita*, their individual research and art-making practice serves as a vessel for exploration, a method by which to traverse and delve into new, unfamiliar terrain.

Terra Incognita 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. This year's presenting artists are Megan Enderschmidt, Jackie Farkas, Sara Kerr, Kevin Keul, Malena Lopez-Maggi, Dani Padgett, Christine Patterson, Rachelle Reichert, Miranda Robbins, and Jess Smith.

THE ARTISTS

Megan Enderschmidt creates abstract sculptures using brick and concrete materials. Through her sculptures, she invites viewers to notice how pervasive sociopolitical issues are ingrained into our built environment. Her works engage a dialogue around how shifting our visual architectural language can affect the perception of issues surrounding women's rights, LGBTI equality, and environmental protection.

Jackie Farkas makes bold, gestural paintings, photographs that resemble psychedelic paintings, and wonky frame-like wooden wall hangings. Her current body of work simultaneously enters into the world of abstraction, while critiquing notions of display by embracing the edge of art's surface.

Sara Kerr uses photography, video, and installation to investigate the idea of a time-keeping device. She is interested in how we measure time and how our devices for measurement fail us. Her work involves using a wide range of tools: cameras, scanners, digital projectors, and traditional darkroom processes as a way of inquiring into how people perceive and experience time and how our personal sense of time differs from clock-time.

Kevin Keul's work relates to land scarification caused by human consumption, manufacturing, and expansion. Kevin approaches his work with a curiosity for the pattern duality that is shared in both the macro perspective of aerial landscapes and the micro perspective of building materials.

Malena Lopez-Maggi makes sculptures, videos, drawings, and photographs inspired by such marvels as geodes, furry animals, color fields, and clouds. Through a playful process of material experimentation, she arrives at forms that refer to natural phenomena yet take on otherworldliness. By allowing a slippage between the real and the imagined, she aims to create a space where reverie and wonder can emerge. Lopez-Maggi's current body of work ruminates on the curiosity, anticipation, uncertainty and surprise of discovering unexpected interiors.

Dani Padgett uses sculpture and photography to create work that examines how we engage with our surroundings. She is interested in the ways that natural materials can be shaped, carved, and whittled to become tools for both practical and imaginary uses. These tools are created through an intuitive process of working with the natural characteristics of the materials.

Christine Patterson uses photography to examine contemporary society's connection to the historical American West. She does this by investigating issues surrounding wild horses. As American icons these animals are part of the fabric of American identity, but are known today in mostly abstract terms. Her work challenges the viewer to acknowledge the responsibility we all have in honoring and protecting integral parts of human history.

Rachelle Reichert uses graphite and salt as the subject and medium of her drawings and sculptures. She manipulates the materials to depict entropic processes such as crystallization,

crumbling, or corroding. The surfaces of her monochromatic drawings balance meticulous observation with unrestrained marks. Inspired by speculation of material agency, she creates visual ambiguity- a space where the viewer can rediscover the matter from which we originate.

Miranda Robbins' work investigates the relationship between body and spirit, where they intertwine and diverge. Her practice is rooted in the act of visual listening. Using sound as a skeleton upon which materials such as liquid latex, seawater, and crushed minerals are hung, battered, folded, or bounced, the resultant videos, photographs and sculptural paintings transpose the senses, disrupt perception, and push the viewer into the space between belief and knowing.

Through her engagement in online transactions and the curation of resulting products and experiences, **Jess Smith** explores the roles of buyer and seller and cycles of desire often utilizing humor as an entry point. Through a multidisciplinary approach, she co-opts the process she is researching to produce the work.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Visit mcam.mills.edu for details.

Terra Incognita Opening Reception

Saturday, May 2, 2015 | 6:00-8:00 pm
MCAM, Mills College

Spring 2015 MFA Open Studios

Saturday, May 9, 2015 | 1:00-5:00 pm
MFA Studios, Mills College

Paul Kos Artist Talk

Saturday, May 9, 2015 | 5:30-6:30 pm
Danforth Lecture Hall, Mills College

MFA Film Screening

Saturday, May 23, 2015 | 6:00-7:30 pm
Danforth Lecture Hall, Mills College

Bodies of Water

Sunday, May 31, 2015 | 2:00-4:00 pm
MCAM Courtyard, Mills College

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.

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