

McDonough Museum of Art

News Release

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McDonough Museum of Art
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HEADLINE: McDonough Museum Announces Five New Exhibitions

Youngstown, OH... Five new exhibitions will be on view at the McDonough Museum of Art January 20 - March 4 featuring *The Possible Actuals: World Building and the Landscape in Virtual Reality*, curated by YSU Digital Media Professor, Dana Sperry. You can experience three original works of art in VR by artists Yvette Granata, Marie-Eve Levasseur and Amy Youngs. Also, in the galleries we have an exhibition of large- and small-scale printed works by Taryn McMahan, photographic works by Lori Kella, a multi-media exhibition by Amanda D. King curated by Amber N. Ford, and paintings by Mark Keffer.

An opening reception will take place on Friday, January 20, 5:00-7:00 p.m. for all exhibitions at the museum.

Artist Lori Kella will give an artist talk on Wednesday, January 25 at 5:10pm in the McDonough lecture hall.

Artist Amanda D. King will give an artist talk on Wednesday, February 22 in the McDonough lecture hall.

The exhibitions and reception are free and open to the public. The McDonough Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Claudia Berlinski, Director of the McDonough Museum, said, “We are very excited to present the virtual reality exhibition that features original works of art by three artists. To my knowledge this will be the first of its kind to be exhibited in the area. Visitors can experience the works of art through VR headsets or observe on a TV monitor as others delve into the work. Along with this ground-breaking work we will also feature the work of four other artists in a variety of media and concepts. This group of exhibitions will prove to be a dynamic experience for our visitors.”

Our group of VR artists is Yvette Granata, Marie-Eve Levasseur and Amy Youngs:

Yvette Granata is a media artist based in Detroit. She creates immersive installations, hybrid films, video art, interactive environments, and hypothetical technological systems. Her work has been exhibited at the Harvard Carpenter Center for the Arts, Viz Laboratory for Visual Culture in Athens, The Eye Film Institute in Amsterdam, 68 Art Institute in Copenhagen, The Beijing International Short Film Festival, Papy Gyro Nights in Norway and Hong Kong, and multiple venues in the US. Yvette is an Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan in the Department of Film, Television, and Media and the Digital Studies Institute.

Marie-Eve Levasseur currently lives and works in Montreal. She received a BFA in Visual and Media Arts from the Université du Québec à Montréal (2008) and an MA (2014), as well as a post-master's degree (Meisterschülerabschluss, in 2016) from the Academy of Visual Arts in Leipzig, Germany. Her work has been presented in Berlin, London, Paris, Hong Kong and Zurich, among others. In 2020, she is the recipient of a creation grant from the Ministry of Culture of Saxony in Germany, and in 2021 of a research and creation grant from the Canada Council for the Arts.

Amy M. Youngs creates eco art, interactive sculptures, and digital media works that explore interdependencies between technology, plants, and animals. Her practice-based research involves entanglements with the non-human, constructing ecosystems, and seeing through the eyes of machines. Youngs has exhibited her works at venues such as the Te Papa Museum in New Zealand, the Trondheim Electronic Arts Centre in Norway, the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, MA, and the public parks in New York City. She has earned an Individual Artist Grant from the Ohio Arts Council, has contributed writing to multidisciplinary publications such as the journal *Leonardo*, and the book *Robots and Art*. Her

work has been profiled in books such as, *What's Next? Eco Materialism & Contemporary Art* and *Art in Action: nature, creativity & our collective future*. Currently, Amy is an Associate Professor of Art at the Ohio State University, where she leads interdisciplinary grant projects, coordinates the Art & Technology area, and teaches courses in digital art, eco art, and art/science.

Our other artists include:

Taryn McMahon grew up in NJ and received her BFA from The Pennsylvania State University. She attended the University of Iowa, where she received an MA and MFA in Printmaking. McMahon has received numerous awards for her work including an Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award, a John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Arts Challenge, Puffin Foundation Grant, and Denbo Fellowship. Her work has been shown at venues such as The Print Center, Philadelphia, PA; the International Print Center, New York, NY; Ortega y Gasset Projects, Brooklyn, NY; Whitdel Arts, Detroit, MI; and Artist Image Resource, Pittsburgh, PA, among many others. She currently serves as an Associate Professor of Studio Art at Kent State University. Human impact on ecologies and Western conceptualizations of nature have been the primary concerns of her artwork for nearly ten years.

Lori Kella was born in St. Joseph Michigan in 1974. She received a BFA from the Cleveland Institute of Art, and her MFA from Cornell University. Kella's photography explores the complexity of the 21st century landscape by crafting elaborate fictions meant only for the camera's lens. Her newest collections examine climate change along the Great Lakes and the dramatic coastal erosion that has intensified as storms increase and protections for the shoreline vanish. Solo exhibitions of both *Shifting Ground* and *Vanishing Shoreline* have been featured at PhotoCentric in Cleveland, OH, as well as other venues throughout the state. Photographs from this series were also featured in *State of the Art 2020* at the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, the Sarasota Art Museum, and the Akron Museum of Art. Lori Kella has exhibited in other prestigious venues such as The Cleveland Museum of Art, Galerie Drei and the Rathuas in Dresden Germany, The Print Center in Philadelphia, Site: Brooklyn in NY, MOCA Cleveland, Artspace in Raleigh, NC, Filter Photo in Chicago, IL, and William Busta Gallery in Cleveland, OH. She has received four OAC Individual Fellowships Awards, a full fellowship to attend Vermont Studio Center, a Creative Workforce Fellowship, and funding from ArtPlace America and the Andy Warhol Foundation. Lori Kella lives on the shore of Lake Erie in Cleveland, OH and is a faculty member at Laurel School in Shaker Heights, OH.

A conceptual artist, cultural strategist, and social justice advocate, **Amanda D. King** uses arts and culture to envision possibilities for transforming individuals, communities, and society. King's

multidisciplinary expertise in jurisprudence, art history, fashion, and culture inform her socially engaged practice, which utilizes visual communication & design, creative consulting, and arts education to mobilize her community and reciprocate grace. King earned a JD at Case Western Reserve University School of Law and a BA in art history at Bryn Mawr College. King was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and lives in Cleveland, Ohio, where she manages her studio practice and serves as creative director of Shooting Without Bullets.

Mark Keffer was born in Cleveland, OH in 1965. He studied graphic design at The University of Akron before transferring to Kent State University to study painting (BFA, 1988). He earned an MFA degree in painting from Ohio State University in 1991. From 1996 to 2005 he lived and worked in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, NYC, exhibiting in a number of group shows at venues including the Brooklyn Museum, New York University, Hunter College, Kentler International Drawing Space, and Cynthia Broan Gallery. He had solo shows there at Farrell/Pollock Fine Art, and Boreas Gallery. Keffer has exhibited nationally and on several occasions internationally. He has taught at Ohio State, Kent State and Youngstown State Universities. His work is in the collections of The Allen Memorial Museum, Oberlin, OH; The Progressive Collection, Cleveland; Equitable Life, NYC; and ARTneo: The Museum of Northeast Ohio Art. Publications include Flash Art Magazine, Esopus Magazine, CAN Journal, and MAKE8ELIEVE. He is the recipient of an Individual Artist Fellowship from the Ohio Arts Council.

More information is available by calling the McDonough Museum at 330-941-1400.