

Ely Center of Contemporary Art

April 26, 2019

51 Trumbull Street New Haven, CT 06510

Press Contact: Maxim Schmidt

mschmidt@elycenter.org | www.elycenter.org



Leila Daw painting detail

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sea and Soil (downstairs) and *Water Access* (upstairs) Art Exhibitions: May 5 - June 23, 2019

Opening Reception: Sunday, May 5, 2-4pm

<https://www.elycenter.org/sea-and-soil-water-access>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/446648992758864/>

New Haven, CT: Two exhibitions focusing on water will open to the public on Sunday, May 5th from 2-4pm at The Ely Center of Contemporary Art, 51 Trumbull Street, New Haven.

Artist/Curator/Educators Fritz Horstman (*Water Access*) and Debbie Hesse (*Sea and Soil*) bring together work by 28+ artists on view throughout the Ely Center's historic house and outside into the backyard. Sharing a fascination with ocean and earth ecosystems, these artists work with roots, soil, sea, flora, and related ecologies in painting, photography, constructions, living forms, socially engaged collaborations, and performative actions. They highlight beauty and awe as well as environmental concerns.

Of *Sea and Soil* (downstairs), Curator Debbie Hesse explains, "Organic, often intersecting, rhizomatic projects and activities, inside and outside the building, create an incubator-like atmosphere to investigate lifeforms beneath us that nurture and sustain life. Through material investigation, research and augmented reality, hidden worlds come into focus, touching on ideas about stewardship, food security, global connectivity and spirituality."

Water Access (upstairs) curated by Fritz Horstman presents artists dealing head-on with the ubiquitous and vital resource of water. Working in photography, sculpture, painting, drawing, and beadwork, they show their sensitivities to the complicated human relationship with water. Horstman posits, “Some of the work is overtly political in its environmental concern; others depict its sublime qualities, its mundane aspects, the life it supports, or the ways in which we interact with it.”

Sea and Soil includes works by: **Laura Barr, Marion Belanger, Allie Hornak, Lys Guillorn, Briah Luckey, Cynthia Beth Rubin** along with collaborations by **Yale-China Fellows, Ian Leung** and **Alice Wong** and **Nadine Nelson** with **Aly Maderson-Quinlog**. Also on view in this exhibition will be two collaborative projects:

House Swarming is a collaborative installation from students of Audubon Arts District neighbor Educational Center for the Arts (ECA): **Stephanny Freire, Jessica Lipinsky, Jillian Andes,** and **Sheila Hutchings**.

TO—OR is a show rhizoming within a show, with works by **Jessica Gaddis, Kevin Hernández Rosa, Angelica Hilliman Cotto, Jim Janecek, Eva Mantell, Eddie Negrón, Jovanzie Polanco, Kristine Roan** and **Antwaun Wright**. Organized by **Allison Hornak**.

Water Access features work by **Richard Barlow, Marilyn Crocker, Leila Daw, Daniel Eugene, Alexander Harding, Amy Jean Porter, James Prosek, Scott Schuldt, Gina Siepel** and **Joseph Smolinski**. Two University of New Haven seniors **Katie Heinlein** and **Emily Powers** will exhibit work in the upstairs lounge.

Relevant programming will take place throughout the show’s duration during open hours: Sundays 1-4pm; Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 5-8pm, and by appointment. See calendar for most updated list of programming and events [HERE](#).

The Ely Center of Contemporary Art’s mission is to reaffirm Grace Ely’s testamentary wishes for an art center where artists, arts organizations, and the public assemble, exchange, learn, and engage through exhibitions, performances, and emerging contemporary practice. *Water Access* and *Sea and Soil* are produced with collaborative support from the curatorial team members: Hanni Bresnick, Jeanne Criscola, Minda Englart, Valerie Garlick, Susan McCaslin, Megan Shaughnessy, and Briana Williams.

High resolution images are available. Please contact Maxim Schmidt at mschmidt@elycenter.org for more information.