FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Extra Human & Witchy

March 1 - April 19, 2020
Opening Reception:
Sunday, March 1, 1 - 3 pm
Closing Reception:
Sunday April 19, 1 - 3 pm

New Haven, CT: Two interconnected spring art exhibitions, Extra Human & Witchy, will open with a public reception at the Ely Center for Contemporary Art [ECOCA] on Sunday, March 1st from 1:00 - 3:00pm at 51 Trumbull Street, New Haven. A variety of related programs will occur over the next six weeks, with a closing event featuring Annie Sailer Dance Company on April 19th. Participants are welcome to submit work by February 26th online at www.elycenter.org.

Extra Human presents new, site-specific works by Austin Furtak-Cole, Jacquelyn Gleisner, Molly Gambardella, Scott Lawrence, Martha Lewis, and Suzanna Scott challenging questions of modernity, technology, ritual, and human agency. A portion of these programs are made possible by a CT Office of the Arts project grant, facilitating The Collision Room, a node that mirrors the center’s long history and current role in the arts community.

Witchy is an open call, un-juried exhibition about magic, power, spirituality, and feminism. While both exhibits confront themes of power, agency, the human body, and modernity, Witchy pays particular homage to Grace Taylor Ely, the philanthropist who transformed her home (today, ECOCA) into a space for local artists to gather and show their work. Each year
during Women’s History Month, ECOCA hosts an exhibit under the series *In Grace We Trust* to address ideas of tradition and change, a nod to the past as we confront current societal challenges, and rise together to create our future narratives. For *Witchy*, we ask if magic can be understood as a *different* type of power, a way to combat political power that threatens many of our communities.

During the reception on March 1st, local artist, activist, and musician **Briana Williams** will present her piece “Ain’t I A Woman,” (1:00pm) a multi-disciplinary performance, time-traveling back to the 1851 Women’s Convention, seeking to channel the feminist icon Sojourner Truth.

Partnership is in the air at ECOCA; *Extra Human* extends off-site to our neighbors at the New Haven Museum on 114 Whitney Ave., where viewers will greet Martha Lewis’s site-specific, large-scale pentagram in the museum’s front foyer. Join us for a related panel discussion at the museum, scheduled for Wednesday, March 25th to start at 5:30pm.

About ECOCA 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. ECOCA’s exhibits are produced with collaborative support from the board of directors, advisory committee, and curatorial & community engagement council, staff, and volunteers. High resolution images are available. Please contact info@elycenter.org for more information.