

Appalachian State University in Boone, NC, Offers Three Sensational Exhibitions

Appalachian State University in Boone, NC, will present works by three female artists with powerful worldviews at the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts beginning Friday, Sept. 4, 2015.

All three women - Endia Beal, who uses a delicate but incisive wit to tackle the often ridiculous quandaries facing black women in the everyday world; Kirsten Stolle, who slyly examines the sinister influence of agribusiness and biotech companies on the world's food supplies; and Ruth Ava Lyons, who paints lush canvases reflecting profound concerns about man's fragile coexistence with the Earth - work and live here in North Carolina while enjoying prominence on the national art landscape.

The exhibition, *Can I Touch It?: Endia Beal*, will be on view in Gallery A, from Sept. 4 through Dec. 19, 2015. An exhibition celebration will take place on Friday, Nov. 6, 2015, from 6-10pm.



"Sabrina and Katrina" by Endia Beal

"What's really going on here?" That's a question the artist Endia Beal asks throughout her work, which shines a bright, unwavering light on the ways in which black women are relegated to obscurity in our culture. "Beal is acutely aware of the under-representation of minority stories in contemporary art circles; it is even more rare to find stories of black women working within the structures of corporate America," say Turchin Center Curator Mary Anne Redding.

In fact, the title of Beal's show, *Can I Touch It?* - which consists of photographic narratives and video testimonies - refers to an experience Beal had as a tall, young black woman in a mostly white male office, working in the IT Department while completing her MFA at Yale University. "A rumor circulated that my thick, kinky Afro and ethnic hairstyles fascinated my white male colleagues," Beal says. "These men were curious about how my hair felt and wanted to touch it."

So Beal actually let them. She interviewed her male coworkers afterward,



"Wallpaper Sample," by Kirsten Stolle

and transformed this highly unorthodox office experience into one of the Turchin Center show's featured videos, "The Office," which, Beal says, explores "the thin line between personal and private within the workspace." The show also includes Beal's acclaimed series of photographs of "white corporate women" wearing "black hairstyles." Beal is a graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill who lives in Winston-Salem, NC, where she is Interim Director of Diggs Gallery at Winston-Salem State University, dedicated to the arts of Africa and the African Diaspora in North Carolina.

The exhibition *Intervention: Kirsten Stolle*, will be on view in Gallery B, from Sept. 4 through Dec. 19, 2015. An exhibition celebration will be held on Friday, Nov. 6, 2015, from 6-10pm.

Take a closer look at the pretty floral wallpaper featured in the multimedia artist Kirsten Stolle's mid-century kitchen, "Miracle Grow," and you'll notice not-so-innocent pesticide cans and herbicide containers where a daisy's cheery center should be. "Stolle's installations examine the influence of corporate agribusiness and biotech companies on the food supply," says Redding. "Using the 1950s as a post-atomic stage set with its inherent tensions between domestic contentment and the ongoing threat of nuclear annihilation, Stolle explores the complex relationships between economy and ecology, creating interactive environments for the viewer to contemplate where their food comes from, how it was grown, and how the choices big business make 'behind the scenes' impact every-day choices about consumption."

Stolle, a devout vegetarian who lives in Western North Carolina and received a BA in Visual Arts from Framingham State College, believes in "the potential for art to bring new perspectives to contemporary scientific issues," she says. Employing text-based embroidery, manipulated audio loops, and such reference materials as vintage medical books, 20th century agricultural magazines, USDA promotional videos, and mid-century chemical-company print

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"Wildfire," by Ruth Ava Lyons, photo by David Ramsey

advertisements among other materials, "I strive to create elegant environments within the context of disturbing genetic realities," says Stolle.

The exhibition *Sightings: Ruth Ava Lyons*, will be on view in the Mayer Gallery, from Sept. 4 through Dec. 19, 2015. An exhibition celebration will be held on Friday, Nov. 6, 2015, from 6-10pm.

"The artist Ruth Ava Lyons is inspired by her passion for diving, endangered watery ecosystems, natural disasters, and other environmental factors," says Redding. Lyons is also a hoop-dancer, a motorcyclist and a keen adventurer, whose experiences at the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, the Florida Everglades, Congaree National Park, Cumberland Island and other national parks and forests have intensified her concern for the negative effect of man's behavior on the natural world. Rather than a dark and gloomy vision, however, Lyons has translated her preoccupations into 'brightly colored mixed media paintings that evoke the shimmering hues of the sea and the sensuality of moist surroundings,' says Redding.

"I intuitively gather, distill, and layer organic imagery, recreating a fusion landscape

suggesting a transformative state of birth, growth, degeneration, and renewal," says Lyons, who lives in Charlotte, NC, where she and her partner, the sculptor Paul Sires, were the longtime owners of the Center of the Earth Gallery, one of North Carolina's most important contemporary art venues for over two decades. "The interjection of man-made graphic forms alludes to similarities and differences in the relationship between man and nature," Lyons adds. "Mystery and meanings emerge and disappear into veils of paint to convey the beauty of seen and unseen forces around us."

Two of the artists will present talks related to their work as part of the TCVA Lecture Series: Kirsten Stolle on Sept. 23 from 7-8pm and Endia Beal on Oct. 14, from 7-8pm.

The Turchin Center for the Visual Arts presents exhibition, education and collection programs that support Appalachian State University's role as a key regional educational, cultural and economic resource.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 828/262-3017 or visit (www.tcva.org).

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A PUBLICATION COVERING THE VISUAL ARTS IN THE CAROLINAS

"The Feeling" © 2009-08, by Brian Rubenstein, is of an open 7'x4'50" piece, image is part of the series "Feeling" as well as the album "Memento" of Art in Transition, South Carolina October 2009 - January 10, 2010

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Tryon Arts & Crafts School in Tryon, NC, Celebrates 100 Years of Craft

In conjunction with the Tryon Toy Story Weekend on Sept. 26 & 27, 2015, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Tryon Toymakers and Woodcarvers, the Tryon Arts and Crafts School, in Tryon, NC, will be opening a gallery show on Sept. 11, with a reception from 6 to 8pm, culminating in a

grand festival and open house on Sept. 26, from 10am to 5pm at the school, which is located on Harmon Field Road in Tryon.

The exhibit continuing through Oct. 2, 2015, will commemorate crafts, both antique and modern, that have been created

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