

FORM+CONTENT GALLERY

February 25, 2016 for immediate release



What	Fierce Lament at Form + Content Gallery
When	April 14, 2016 to May 14, 2016 Gallery hours: Thursday – Saturday 12:00 – 6:00 pm and by appointment
Public Reception	Reception: Earth Day: Friday, April 22, 2016 6:00 to 9:00PM Poetry reading: Thursday, May 12, 7:00 to 8:30PM, co-presented with Joyface Poets Gallery events are free and open to the public
Where	Form + Content Gallery Whitney Square Building 210 North 2nd Street, Suite 104 Minneapolis, MN 55401 Metered street parking
Information	formandcontent@gmail.com http://www.formandcontent.org 612/436-1151

Description

Fierce Lament at Form + Content Gallery is an exhibition curated by Minneapolis artist and activist Camille J. Gage. Inspired by the recent COP21 climate conference in Paris, and the Earth Day happenings of the past 46 years, Gage invited 18 artists and poets to share new and existing work that addresses the human relationship with the natural world that supports and sustains us. Exhibiting work in variety of disciplines, **Fierce Lament** is an investigation into what artists and others might do to understand and re-weave our broken connection with the Earth.

In conjunction with this exhibition, Gage has invited other artists and arts organizations across the Twin Cities to respond to the urgent environmental issues facing the global community under the banner **Fierce Lament: Artists illuminate global climate change**. For more information on these events visit the [Fierce Lament Facebook page](#).

The first Earth Day was held 46 years ago in 1970. A response to a massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, CA, the event was organized as a “national teach-in” to educate and inspire the public about environmental stewardship. Earth Day 2016 will take place on April 22nd.

ARTIST and POET BIOGRAPHIES

Alyssa Baguss

Image: *Dead Reckoning*, 2015, Plumb line chalk on walls, 60" x 936"

Alyssa Baguss's practice explores mediated natural environments through drawing processes. Her work has been exhibited in the Twin Cities and regionally, including Augsburg College Christensen Center Art Gallery, Minnesota Museum of American Art, Soo Visual Arts Center, and Rosalux Gallery. Baguss has worked as a teaching artist and artist in residence with the Minnesota Center for Book Arts youth programming, Minneapolis Public School system's Art for Academic Achievement residency programs, and with various art organizations in the Twin Cities including the Walker Art Center, Weisman Art Museum, the Rochester Art Center, and Public Arts St. Paul.

Jonee Brigham

Image: *Power Basket (detail)*, 2015, electrical wire and components, 22" w x 22" l x 15" h.

I make art that explores the connection and flow between people and the rest of nature. In artists books, mixed media, and public art, I use story or a sequence of events and often mix words and poetry with objects, images, or participatory actions. I believe infrastructure, such as power lines and water mains, tells a story of how our daily lives are interconnected with nature—whether from a sink through pipes to the river, or from a light switch, through wires, to the sky. In artists books I combine poetry, photography, and collage, to create an experience that unfolds within the familiar book form. In participatory public art, I create props and rituals to engage participants with their environment and these elements, together with their re-representation in exhibits form the impression of the work. In mixed media I alter images or familiar objects into a new composition that may be interactive, or reference ritual actions used to make it. My roles as an architect and sustainable design researcher also inform my art practice.

Andrea Carlson

Image: *The Portage*, 2008, 92" x 122", oil, acrylic, ink, color pencil, and graphite on paper

Andrea Carlson lives and works in Minneapolis. In 2003 she earned a BA from the University of Minnesota and an MFA from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design in 2005. Her work has exhibited widely while gaining support through several fellowships including the Minnesota State Arts Board (2006) and McKnight/MCAD Foundation Fellowship (2007-08).

Paula Cisewski

Paula Cisewski's third poetry collection, *The Threatened Everything*, will be released in 2016 through Burnside Review Books, and her first book of lyric prose, *Misplaced Sinister*, recently appeared through Red Bird Chapbooks. She is also the author of *Ghost Fargo* (selected by Franz Wright for the Nightboat Poetry Prize), *Upon Arrival* (Black Ocean), three poetry chapbooks. Paula's work has appeared in journals and anthologies such as *Conduit*, *diode*, *failbetter*, *Privacy Policy: The Anthology of Surveillance Poetics*, *Resistance Journal* and *Ping Pong*. She has been awarded fellowships from the Banfill-Locke Center for the arts, the Jerome Foundation, and the Minnesota State Arts Board. She teaches, both academically and privately, and curates artful literary events in the Twin Cities.

Francine Conley

Francine Conley is a poet, performer, and director. She has a chapbook of poems, *How Dumb the Stars* through Parallel Press, and a manuscript of poems, *STEMS*, in circulation. She is a founding member of Franco-American touring theatre company, *Le Théâtre de la Chandelle Verte*, and a performing artist who has written, produced and performed more than 8 one-woman multimedia shows in English. Her latest, *The Narrow Road*, opened in November (2015). Inspired in part by Matsuo Basho's 17th book, *Narrow Road to the Deep North*, in which he

sketched ideas as he left “home” and traveled to write, Francine spent a year traveling throughout the UK and parts of Europe, and designed *The Narrow Road* after travel sketches and encounters with other travelers and exiles on her way. As a writer she has poems in (or forthcoming in) such journals as the *Collagist*, *American Literary Review*, *Juked*, *Shadowgraph Magazine*, *Asteri(x) Journal*, and the *New England Review*, among others. She holds an MFA from Warren Wilson. For more on her art: <http://francineconley.com>

Sean Connaughty

Image: Ark of the Anthropocene, detail, 2015, mixed media

Sean Connaughty is a Minneapolis based multi-media artist. Sean earned his BFA in Painting from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design in 1989, before completing his MFA at the Savannah College of Art and Design in 2000. He is an instructor of painting, drawing, printmaking and sculpture at The University of Minnesota and St. Cloud State University. Sean has exhibited his work internationally. Collections include the Telfair Museum in Savannah, Georgia and The Weisman Art Museum in Minneapolis, MN.

Heid E. Erdrich

Image: Preoccupied, 2013, video poem still (Preoccupied created in collaboration with R. Vincent Moniz, Jr. and Jonathan Thunder)

Heid Erdrich is a collaborative artist and the author of four collections of poetry, most recently *Cell Traffic* from University of Arizona Press. Her curatorial work includes over a dozen exhibits in Minnesota. Heid’s poem films have been selected for screening at festivals internationally including ImagineNative, Co-Kisser, Native Film Festival, Vision Maker, and at the Santa Fe Indian Market film festival, Class-X. Her collaborative poem videos have won a Judges Award, a Best of Fest, and a Best Experimental Short awards in 2014 and 2015. Heid grew up in Wahpeton, North Dakota and is Ojibwe enrolled at Turtle Mountain. She teaches the MFA Creative Writing program of Augsburg College.

Gregory Euclide

Image: Owning my Privilege in Naming Your Wilderness, 2014, 31” x 25”, relief print assemblage

Gregory Euclide is an artist and teacher living in the Minnesota River Valley. His work has been featured in *The Nature of Nature* at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts (2014-2015), *Badlands: New Horizons in Landscape* at MASS MoCA (2008-2009), *Otherworldly* at the Museum of Arts and Design in New York (2011), *Small Worlds* at the Toledo Museum of Art in Ohio (2011), and was presented as a solo exhibition *Nature Out There*, at the Nevada Museum of Art (2012). Euclide’s work has been reviewed and featured in publications such as: Art News, Sculpture Magazine, Art Ltd Magazine, Hi Fructose Magazine and Juxtapoz Magazine. His work is also featured on the 2012 Grammy Award winning album covers of the musical group Bon Iver and on the cover of McSweeney’s Quarterly Concern #43. Euclide was awarded three Minnesota State Arts Board Artist Initiative Grants through the National Endowment for the Arts, and a Jerome Foundation Residency through the Blacklock Nature Sanctuary. In addition, he was a recipient of the 2011-12 Jerome Foundation Fellowship for Emerging Artists and the 2015-2016 Mcknight Fellowship for Visual Artists. Euclide received his MFA from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design.

Camille J. Gage

Image: I AM WATER, 2013 – ongoing, community collaboration, mixed media on Tyvek, dimension varies

Gage began her creative journey in her teens, writing music and touring with a variety of bands including the critically lauded Tetes Noires. She segued into public art and mixed media performance, often with a topical edge, and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. She later studied at the Women’s Art Institute at MCAD. Gage was a Blue Mountain Center and an Institute for Community Cultural Development fellow and an artist-in-residence at On the Commons. She has performed at the Walker Art Center, the MIA, and First Avenue in Minneapolis, as well as many venues in New York City including The Bottom Line, The

Knitting Factory, and Folk City. Her work is in numerous individual and institutional collections, including the Weisman Art Museum, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Boston Scientific, the Family Housing Fund, and the Minnesota Historical Society and Carleton College. She was a founding member of Form + Content Gallery, an artist's cooperative in Minneapolis.

M. J. Gette

M. J. Gette is an MFA candidate in Poetry and Anthropology minor at the University of Minnesota. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Carolina Quarterly*, *Tupelo Quarterly*, *Fugue*, *otoliths*, *Indefinite Space*, *Eratio* *The Walls They Left Us*, forthcoming by Newfound. Earlier in 2015 she was awarded a residency with Arquetopia, Oaxaca for a project in architecture, culture and language, alongside the Marcella DeBourg Fellowship, for "giving voice to women's lives.

Kara Faye Gregory

Image: #4, 2015, Drawing and Screen print, 11" x 17"

Kara Faye Gregory graduated from Minneapolis College of Art and Design in 2014 with a BFA in Printmaking. Her work focuses on screen printing, photo-lithography, and intaglio. She uses form and geometric shapes to manipulate images within her work. Currently, she teaches apparel screen printing at Elpis Enterprises, a non-profit youth organization working towards ending youth homelessness. She also works as an Apparel Printer for Track Club Print Co, a Minneapolis-based screen printing company.

Meena Mangalvedhekar

IMAGE: When all journeys lead to the same island, 2016, 6'x6' Light Projection

Meena Mangalvedhekar is a visual artist, projectionista and photographer. She received GD-Art from Abhinav Kala Mahavidyalaya and BFA from University of Minnesota, and has been active in group shows and public art projects in United States and India. She is currently residing in Minneapolis, MN. Her works appear as fusion of tangibles and intangibles in which meanings shift, past and present merge. Time, place and memory always play a key role. Through large installations, digital drawings and placemaking experiments Meena strives to connect community and place. She believes in assisting community organizations utilize these instruments to creatively claim and transform public spaces.

G.E. Patterson

G.E. Patterson is a poet and translator. He has been a featured poet-performer in New York's Jazz Fest, at Wesleyan University (CT) and the New School (NYC), and in the Small Press Traffic (CA) reading series. He is the author of two poetry collections, *Tug* (Graywolf Press) and *To and From* (Ahsahta Press). His recent work includes two public-art commissions – for Create: The Community Meal and The Plume Project. He lives in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Juliet Patterson

Juliet Patterson's *The Truant Lover* (Nightboat Books) was winner of the first Nightboat Books Prize. Her most recent collection of poetry, *Threnody* is forthcoming from Nightboat (October 2016). Her poems and essays have appeared widely in numerous magazines including *American Letters & Commentary*, *Crazyhorse*, *Indiana Review*, *Knockout*, and *Verse*. Two long sequences--one prose and one poetry--are available as chapbooks, *Epilogue* (Spout Press) and *Dirge* (Albion Books).

Lela Pierce

Image: Impulsive Whispers: Shed, Sift, Shift, 2008, mixed media, dimensions variable

Lela Pierce grew up playing in waterfalls and riding horses in the St. Croix river valley. As a multiracial artist, Lela identifies primarily with Black American, and Eastern European American heritages. In 2008 she graduated from

Macalester College with a BA in Studio Art. For the past decade Lela has travelled to Rishikesh India for several months at a time to study yoga on a near annual basis. As a proud founding member of Ananya Dance Theatre, Lela teaches Contemporary Indian Dance at St. Paul Academy of Performing Arts in St. Paul, MN. Her visual work focuses primarily on spirit connections, energy mapping and the secrets revealed in the quietude of nature.

Deborah Ramos

Image: Wiconi Zentli, 2009, corn fiber paper, panel 1 = 11' x 3'; panel 2 = 5' x 21'

Deborah Ramos is a multi-media artist. She creates ceramic sculpture, installation art, mosaic murals, amatl (bark paper) pictographs, and corn fiber paper sculptures. Deborah received her B.F.A. degree from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and has exhibited work at venues that include the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, the National Museum of Mexican Art (Chicago), the Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts (San Francisco), the C.N. Gorman Gallery (Davis, CA), the Minnesota Center for Book Arts, and has performed with In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theater. In 2001, Deborah collaborated with Mexican and local artists on the creation of the Mosaic of Americas mural in Minneapolis. Deborah is a neuromuscular therapist and director and founder of Tlalnepantla Arts/The Zenteotl Project, a community project dedicated to the recovery of indigenous Latino oral traditions, creativity, traditional dance, and gardening methods, to promote community action on issues related to urban agriculture, food and climate justice.

Dana Sikkila

Image: Bee Installation, 2015, printed paper, wire armature, dimensions vary

Litchfield, MN native Dana Sikkila received her Master of Arts as well as her Non Profit Leadership Certificate from Minnesota State University, Mankato. Still based in Mankato she concentrates on making her art work as well as being Executive Director of the 410 Project Art Gallery and Artistic Director of Black Water Press, both volunteer managed art spaces bring arts and arts programming to the Mankato community. She acts as an Adjunct Professor at MNSU, Mankato within the Art Department teaching sculpture and drawing as well as River Valley Women Magazine's Arts and Culture Writer. Over the past three years of being Director of the 410 Project she's introduced numerous art programs and special events for both children and adults to help strike creativity, positive self esteem, and art awareness in all of Southern Minnesota. Besides these duties Sikkila has received numerous awards including 2015-2016 Art Educators of Minnesota "Distinguished Service Outside the Field" Recognition, 2015 Mankato's YWCA Young Woman of Distinction, 2015 Woman of Courage and Vision from MNSU Mankato, featured artist on Post Cards, Pioneer's PBS Art TV Program, and KEYC's Jefferson Good Person Award.

Cameron Zebrun

Image: Atlas 15, 2016, mixed media, 52H x 12 W x 8D

Cameron Zebrun received his BFA from Cleveland Institute of Art in 1978, and MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art in 1980. Zebrun received a Minnesota State Artists Initiative Grant in 2005, and was Artist in Residence at the Petrified Forest National Park in 2008. Zebrun has had several one-person exhibitions in the Chicago and Twin Cities areas. His work was included in the 2014 Made in Minnesota exhibition at the Katherine Nash Gallery at the University of Minnesota and the 60th Arrowhead Regional Biennial at the Duluth Art Institute in Duluth, Minnesota. Zebrun was awarded a Minnesota State Arts Board Grant in 2015 and is represented by Kolman Pryor Gallery in the Twin Cities area. He is employed at The Walker Art Center as director of Program Services.

ARTIST IMAGE INFORMATION – NEXT PAGE

Fierce Lament Artist Image information

High-res images available at https://www.dropbox.com/sh/l6aao34kg8worgd/AAB9YtKiz6PmXuZ5_p9d-hRGa?dl=0

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Mission Statement

Form+Content Gallery nurtures diverse artistic practice and thoughtful dialogue. We value art as a catalyst for critical thinking. We value integrity and the artistic process. We aspire to link personal expression to broader social contexts. Form+Content Gallery is dedicated to moving the definitions and practice of culture