

# FORM+CONTENT GALLERY

For immediate release

Vesna Kittelson

## **Mrs. Darwin's Garden**

### **What**

New art by Vesna Kittelson – artist books, drawings and paintings.

### **When**

November 13 – December 20, 2014

Gallery hours: Thursday – Saturday 12:00 – 6 p m or by appointment

Free and open to public

### **Public Reception**

Saturday, November 15, 6 - 8 pm

Free and open to public

### **Where**

Form and Content Gallery

Whitney Square Building

210 North 2nd Street, suite 104

Minneapolis, MN 55401

Metered Street parking

### **NoLo - North Loop happenings:**

Anne George

#### **GESTURA**

November 14, 2014 – January 2, 2015

Traffic Zone Center for Visual Arts

Minneapolis, MN, 55401

Public Reception: November 15, 2014, 6-8PM

Information, Mrs. Darwin's Garden:

[formandcontent@gmail.com](mailto:formandcontent@gmail.com)

<http://formandcontent.org>

612-436-1151

## Description

2009 was the 150th anniversary of the publication of Darwin's "On the Origin of Species" and the 200th anniversary of his birth. During my life and work (with a visiting artist studio) at Cambridge University in 2009, I witnessed many commemorations of Darwin's life and work. I became consumed by the unexpected realization that his life with wife, Emma Wedgwood, was one of great love, risk, sacrifice, and triumph. How to celebrate their exceptional love story, overshadowed by the impact of the Theory of Evolution, through art, became a central question in my work? At the same time I was pondering how to best highlight current and alarming environmental concerns like the disappearance of bees, climate change, etc.

I decided to create an imaginary garden for Mrs. Darwin, featuring invented images of primitive-seeming plants rendered in bright color and presented as "specimens" in an accordion book as if they were made for a natural history museum display. Playfully, I named each "specimen" as if it were of the same origin as a contemporary plant.

Mrs. Darwin's Garden Book One - going to the artist book collection, Tate Gallery, London.

Mrs. Darwin's Garden Book Two - going to the artist book collection, Tate Gallery, London.

Book Three is in making.

An artist book, FOUNTAINS, was produced because Mrs. Darwin's Garden must have fountains as well.

## Artist Biography

Vesna Kittelson grew up in Split, Croatia. She moved to Minneapolis in 1970 and obtained Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts and a Master's degree in Design at the University of Minnesota. She was a member of the prestigious WARM Gallery and taught for many years as an Adjunct Professor at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. Currently Vesna is a member of Form and Content Gallery and has a studio in the Traffic Zone Center for Visual Art.

She has participated in many exhibitions in Minnesota, preferring co-op and college venues. Internationally her work has been shown in Paris, France, Cambridge, England and Rijeka and Split in Croatia. Recently she has started creating artist books and two of them, Mrs. Darwin's Garden volumes 1 and 2, have been selected for inclusion in the Tate Gallery Library in London.

Vesna was a recipient of Bush Fellowship, several Minnesota State Art Board grants and is in collections at Minnesota Museum of American Art, the Weisman Art Museum and the Bush Foundation Collection.

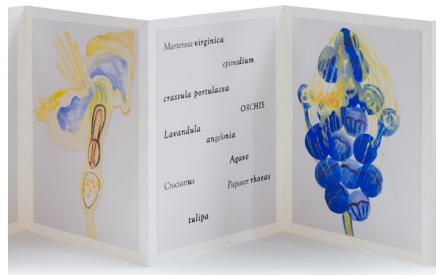
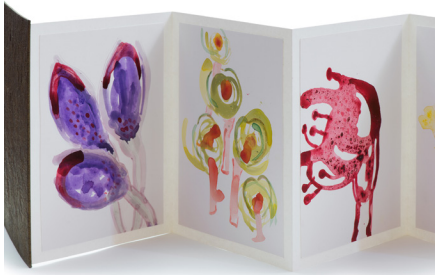
Vesna is interdisciplinary artist exploring diverse themes by blurring the mediums of painting, sculpture, book art, figuration and abstraction. The diversity of her art is inevitable, because she chooses to work with materials that are most appropriate to an idea. This fluid approach facilitates her need for examining some critical questions and her wandering between past and present and so fleeting linear time.

## Press Images

Hi-res images are available at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/vmh5dec1ol1qwys/AADGOX0TpFdPkEXV88fU-EQIa>

7 images show pages from Mrs. Darwin's Garden, Book Two, 2014.



## Mission Statement

Form and 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 definition and practice of culture forward in new and lively