



PITTSBURGH FILMMAKERS/PITTSBURGH CENTER FOR THE ARTS TO DEBUT THE 2017 ARTIST AND EMERGING ARTIST OF THE YEAR EXHIBITIONS

Jo-Anne Bates and Haylee Ebersole, the 2017 Artist of the Year and Emerging Artist of the Year respectively, unveil new exhibitions and receive awards at the November 17, 2017 opening reception

PITTSBURGH, PA (October 31, 2017) – Pittsburgh Filmmakers/Pittsburgh Center for the Arts (PF/PCA) will unveil exhibitions by **Jo-Anne Bates**, the 2017 Artist of the Year, and **Haylee Ebersole**, the 2017 Emerging Artist of the Year at an opening reception on November 17, 2017 from 5:30 - 9:00pm. Attendees will experience new work by Bates and Ebersole alongside an exhibition entitled *Sankofa Soul* by Women of Visions, Inc. The Center for the Arts Holiday Shop, which also debuts November 17, will run alongside the exhibitions at PF/PCA's Marshall Galleries, located at 6300 Fifth Ave in Shadyside, through February 11, 2018.

PF/PCA's annual Artist of the Year award recognizes an individual, established in their field, who has displayed significant and enduring artistic contributions to the region, and provides support for them create a new body of work for exhibition. Bates' exhibition, *EXPLORATION of COLOR*, will feature a series of mixed-media, abstract monotype prints. The reintroduction of textual statements to her arsenal represent a culmination of her experiences as a woman, mother, grandmother, and educator.



Artist of the Year Jo-Anne Bates in her home ([download](#))

Photo credit: Sarah Huny Young

“The words and statements represent expressions people see, say, and hear. My work has often been referred to as philosophical road maps and these new prints continue in that direction. Creating these prints provides an outlet for creative freedom and continues to be an ongoing and necessary challenge for me,” says Bates.

The colors and textures of the landscape of South Africa, the "Rainbow Country," were a major inspiration for her recent work. The injustice young African-American men and women face also inform the work, as evidenced by pieces entitled “Black Lives Matter 2” and “Black vs. Blue Don’t Shoot.” These prints feature bold color combinations and textured surfaces and have been folded, overlapped and glued to form two-dimensional sculptures. The show also includes an installation that incorporates athletic sneakers donated by the community during an open call period.

While reflecting on Bates’ career and influence, local artist and friend Thaddeus Mosley says, in the catalog that will accompany Bates’ exhibition, “This is art of social and political message, distinct and subdued, recalling the McLuhan doctrine, The Medium is the Message.”

Bates is a longtime member of Women of Visions, Inc., a Pittsburgh-based artist guild dedicated to exhibiting, mentoring, and supporting art created by African-American women. Women of Visions, Inc. nominated Ms. Bates for this year’s award.



"Black Lives Matter 2" by Jo-Anne Bates, part of her upcoming exhibition EXPLORATION of COLOR ([download](#))
Photo credit: Tom Little



"A Yellow Avalanche" by Jo-Anne Bates, part of her upcoming exhibition EXPLORATION of COLOR ([download](#))
Photo credit: Tom Little



"Changing Colors" by Jo-Anne Bates, part of her upcoming exhibition EXPLORATION of COLOR ([download](#))
Photo credit: Tom Little



"A Woman's Work is Never Done" by Jo-Anne Bates, part of her upcoming exhibition EXPLORATION of COLOR ([download](#))
Photo credit: Tom Little

The Emerging Artist of the Year award recognizes an individual forecasted to make a significant impact in the arts as their career progresses. This year's recipient, Haylee Ebersole, utilizes unorthodox materials such as gelatin, kool-aid, laundry detergent, and cement to create abstract sculptures inspired by the Anthropocene*. Her exhibition, entitled *New Works*, will illustrate Ebersole's imagined anthropocenic landscape, one that suggests new possibilities for everyday matter, and provokes contemplation of the traces our human existence may leave behind. Ebersole was nominated by Amy Staggs, Curatorial Assistant at Wood Street Galleries. The creation of these works was supported by a Creative Development Grant provided by the Investing in Professional Artist Grants Program, a partnership of The Pittsburgh Foundation and The Heinz Endowments.



Emerging Artist of the Year Haylee Ebersole in her home ([download](#))
Photo credit: Sarah Huny Young

“Ebersole’s most recent body of work is her most ambitious to date...reaching beyond her previous wheelhouse into fresh territory,” notes local artist Elizabeth Rudnick, who has contributed the foreword to Ebersole’s exhibition catalog. “Calling to mind the contemporaneous Landscape Paintings of Rodney McMillian, these works move beyond their natural physicality into a distinctly artificial realm. They revel in grossness, calling to mind great floating islands of multicolored trash or the leftover trimmings of some imagined industrial process.”

“I am really excited about the [Emerging Artist of the Year] award. It has given me an opportunity to move into a different space so that I could work this large. I hope by the end of the show that I’ll have kept up this momentum,” says Ebersole.

**the Anthropocene is a proposed epoch marked by humanity’s impact on Earth*



Sculptures by Haylee Ebersole, part of her upcoming exhibition New Works ([download](#))
Photo credit: Sarah Huny Young



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In-gallery talks with the artists and special guests are scheduled for January 2018, with dates to be announced. These talks will provide an opportunity for guests to engage the artists in conversation and learn more about their process and artistic perspective.

(hi-res images for press - [download](#))

About Pittsburgh Filmmakers/Pittsburgh Center for the Arts

PF/PCA is a community-based institution that offers accredited and non-accredited visual arts courses, access to equipment and studio space, fellowship and exhibition programs, a robust screening program that includes the annual Three Rivers Film Festival, a Youth Media program featuring media arts classes for children ages 5-17, and sales of work by our artist members in our on-site shop. Annually PF/PCA serves 100,000 individuals of all ages.

PRESS CONTACT:

Huny Young
Director of Marketing & Communications
(412) 361-0872 x 226
huny@pfpca.org

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