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Writer, naturalist blends poetry, art in exhibition on Statesboro Campus

January 2, 2019



Naturalist and poet Elizabeth Bradfield is on a mission to bring art and literature to the streets. As founder and editor-in-chief of Broadsided Press, Bradfield has published numerous poetry and art collaborations on utility poles, bathroom stall walls and notice boards around the world, showcasing the power of art as a way to transform public spaces.

Bradfield will present her work on Georgia Southern University's Statesboro Campus Jan. 14 through Feb. 8 at the Center for Art and Theatre's University Gallery.

"Field Work," a collection of photographs and writings from Bradfield's fieldwork as a naturalist in Antarctica, offers an insider's view of one of the globe's iconic wild places. Bradfield will talk about her work in a lecture on Jan. 18 from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. in room 2071 of the arts building. A reception will follow at the gallery from 5 to 7 p.m.

"I'm very much looking forward to Bradfield's visit and exhibition," said Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art Statesboro Gallery Director Jason Hoelscher. "The range of approaches and insights she brings to her work, whether text, photo or image, is inspirational in and of itself. Add that her work involves such a range of locations from the mundane to the rarified and spectacular, and it shows the power of word and image to capture and modify a full spectrum of experience across all manners of context."

Bradfield is an associate professor and co-director of creative writing at Brandeis University. A contributing editor at the *Alaska Quarterly Review*, her poems and essays have appeared in *The New Yorker* and *The Atlantic*, among others. Her fourth book, *Toward Alaska*, will be published in May 2019.

Bradfield's visit is made possible with generous contributions from Campus Life Enrichment Committee, the Departments of Art, Writing and Linguistics, and Sociology and Anthropology, as well as the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies program.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research institution founded in 1906, offers 141 degree programs serving nearly 26,500 students through nine colleges on three campuses in Statesboro, Savannah, Hinesville and online instruction. A leader in higher education in southeast Georgia, the University provides a diverse student population with expert faculty, world-class scholarship and hands-on learning opportunities. Georgia Southern creates lifelong learners who serve as responsible scholars, leaders and stewards in their communities. Visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu.

Posted in Events, Gallery Programming, Noteworthy

Artist brings unique collection to Georgia Southern Statesboro Campus

January 2, 2019



STATESBORO—Multimedia artist Lily Kuonen's work has never been described as conventional. Her playntings, a combination of a play and a painting, are an end-result of her varied and playful approaches to contradiction, opposition, integration and connection. Some of Kuonen's playntings will be on view at the Center for Art and Theatre's Contemporary Gallery on the Georgia Southern University Statesboro Campus starting Jan. 14.

Kuonen's work aims to redirect the viewers' focus from the material object itself to the importance of the relations it embodies. Her most recent exhibition, "Playntings: —> —>," shows the latest results of her explorations into artistic synthesis and repurposing.

"I've been aware of Kuonen's work for close to a decade now, and it never ceases to amaze and intrigue me," Gallery Director Jason Hoelscher said. "Lily has a great ability to take elements and objects we've all seen before and arrange, combine or layer them into weird new combinations that simultaneously seem perfectly logical yet strangely absurd and weird. Her playntings evoke a response that's part 'what a weird idea!' and part 'that's so obvious, why didn't I think of that?""

Kuonen received her Master of Fine Arts in painting from the Savannah College of Art and Design and her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art from the University of Central Arkansas. She is currently foundations coordinator and associate professor of art at Jacksonville University in Jacksonville, Florida. She serves as SECAC affiliate representative for the board of Foundations in Art: Theory and Education, and she is president of the Integrative Teaching International board. Kuonen also regularly contributes exhibition reviews and interviews for BURNAWAY Magazine in Atlanta. She has exhibited her work both nationally and internationally.

The exhibition will be on view from Jan. 14 to Feb. 8. A gallery talk with the artist and a closing reception will be held at the Contemporary Gallery on Feb. 7 from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

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