

EXHIBITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Hilliard University Art Museum

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

710 East Saint Mary Blvd.

Lafayette, LA 70503

Laura Blereau, Curator

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Sandra Eula Lee: Make of / Make do

Guest curated by Dr. Christopher Bennett

Exhibition Dates: December 27, 2016 – May 6, 2017

Artist Talk: Wednesday, February 1, 2017

Reception: Friday, February 3, 6:00-8:00 PM

The Hilliard University Art Museum is pleased to announce *Sandra Eula Lee: Make of / Make do*. This solo exhibition marks the artist's first in Louisiana and is guest curated by Dr. Christopher Bennett, UL Lafayette Art History professor in the Department of Visual Arts. It is accompanied by a new publication by the museum, also authored by Bennett, which features an analysis and catalog of Lee's recent artworks.

Lee's installations incorporate sculptural, photographic, and drawing traditions to consider ways in which place is created among changing urban and environmental conditions. The sculptures and installations she constructs are informed by her observations of daily life and through the collecting and reconfiguring of the materials that pass through it.

An American artist born in New York, Sandra Eula Lee has exhibited her work internationally. Her interests in cultural perspectives and shifting contemporary art contexts have inspired traveling projects in Seoul and Beijing. Lee has also since been recognized with art residencies at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Seoul Museum of Art, Vermont Studio Center and the American Academy in Rome, among others.



Sandra Eula Lee. *Make of / Make do*, 2016
© Sandra Lee

Statement by Guest Curator Dr. Christopher Bennett:

Sandra Eula Lee makes use of ordinary, and at times site-specific, materials to construct two- and three-dimensional arrangements. Currently the director of the Expanded Sculpture Program at Kenyon College in Ohio, Lee uses materials salvaged from construction sites in her art. Working with materials gathered during travels through South Korea, China, and the United States, she configures work that explores the theme of the "garden"—principally as an East Asian formation—and the "ponds" often located within them.

As a former resident of five bustling cities—Goyang, Seoul, Xiamen, Beijing, and New York City—where Lee lived between 2000 and 2015, Lee experienced a larger atmosphere defined by accelerated modernization and continual construction. She was especially struck by small, 'impromptu' gardens, created and tended by anonymous civilians, located between the many construction zones and apartment blocks and along the peripheries of such places. Soon, she began to think about how the "garden" might be brought to bear on making a work of art.

As an artist Lee conceives the "garden" as a space of contemplation; it is also, like life itself, in her estimation, "improvised." Inspired by more formal gardens, such as Soswaewon Garden in South Korea or The Master of Nets Garden in Suzhou, China, Lee is particularly drawn to the ponds located within gardens. She describes these sites as "almost a kind of empty space, reflecting what's around it."

The exhibition *Make of / Make do* surveys Lee's production from 1997 to 2014, and includes her most recent works of 2015-17. In these later pieces, the themes of her earlier "gardens" and "ponds" undergo projection onto the vertical plane of the wall, and onto new landscape features, such as mountains.

Lee's art is defined by a dynamic tension between the spontaneous and potentially endless process of making use of salvaged and commonly available materials—and the arrival at a finely-tuned, definitive external structure.

Biography

Born in 1976, Sandra Eula Lee earned an MFA from Hunter College in 2007 and holds a BFA in sculpture and photography from Cornell University. She is the recipient of many awards including a fellowships from Creative Capital, the Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council and Asian Cultural Council in New York. Past exhibitions of Lee's work have included the Johnson Museum of Art, Ithaca NY; Aljira Center for Contemporary Art, Newark NJ; Lab 47, Beijing, China; Fondazione Mudima, Milan, Italy; Dada Post, Berlin, Germany; Art Space Pool, Seoul, South Korea; Bronx River Arts Center, New York NY; XiangSi Art Museum, Tianjin, China; Rush Arts Gallery, New York NY; NurtureArt, Brooklyn NY; Franklin Parrasch Gallery, New York NY; Chinese-European Art Center, Xiamen, China; and Artspace New Haven, CT. Writings on Lee's work have also been featured in *The New York Times*, *Artnet Magazine*, *Boston Globe*, *Harper's Bazaar Seoul*, *Time Out New York*, *World Journal*, *the Korea Times* and *Trendebeheer*, among other publications.

Acknowledgements

Sandra Eula Lee: Make of / Make do has been generously supported by the Department of Visual Arts and College of the Arts at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette; Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio; and the Friends of the Humanities.

Upon request, press and media kits are available that include high resolution images and selected literature on the artist.

Museum Hours, Admission & General Information

The Hilliard University Art Museum is located at 710 East Saint Mary Boulevard, on the campus of University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Museum Hours are: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Wednesday, 9:00 am to 8:00 pm; Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm; closed Sunday and Monday. General Admission: \$5 Adults, \$4 Seniors (62+), \$3 Students (5-17). FREE for Members, UL Students/Staff/Faculty with identification, and visitors under 5. Guided tours of the galleries are available Friday & Saturday at 2 PM, complimentary with admission. For general information, please visit hilliardmuseum.org or call (337) 482-2278.

About the Hilliard

The Hilliard University Art Museum operates on the campus of University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and was originally founded in 1964 as the Art Center for Southwest Louisiana. Featuring a state-of-the-art modern facility that was erected in 2004, the museum houses more than 2,200 objects in its permanent collection, and is the largest art exhibition space between New Orleans and Houston. The Hilliard serves a wide range of educational and cultural needs by fostering cross-disciplinary intellectual discourse on campus and throughout the region. At the core of the Hilliard's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit the art of our time while celebrating the great diversity of Louisiana's heritage.

Concurrent Exhibitions at the Hilliard University Art Museum

December 9 – May 13, 2017. *Spotlight on Shawne Major*

February 3 – May 13, 2017. *Yun-Fei Ji: Looking for Lehman Brothers*, guest curated by Dr. Christopher Bennett, UL Lafayette Art History professor in the Department of Visual Arts

February 3 – August 12, 2017. *Spiritual Journeys: Homemade Art from the Wyatt and Becky Collins Collection*, guest curated by Gus Kopriva

Free Public Programming related to *Sandra Eula Lee: Make of / Make Do*

Wed Jan 18: 6:00 – 8:00 PM

"Mapping the Spirit of Place"

featuring Paddy Bowman of Local Learning: The National Network for Folk Arts in Education

Artists show us places through their responses to the world around them. They are in a conversation with a community as well as those who view their art. This presentation inaugurates the museum's seasonal theme, "The Politics of Place," through a folk art lens in preparation for the upcoming exhibition of the extensive collection of Wyatt and Becky Collins, "Spiritual Journeys," opening February 3. Exploring how some folk artists approach their work and express their aesthetics will segue into mapping boundaries, unique spaces, and cultural symbols of Acadiana. This interactive presentation includes a sneak peek at the artwork featured in our spring 2017 exhibitions.

Wed Feb 1: 5:30 – 7:00 PM

"Behind the Scenes" Artist Talks with Sandra Eula Lee and Yun-Fei Ji

Learn more about the practices of these two artists, and how their new solo exhibitions originated at the Hilliard Museum. This event includes two slideshow presentations and is co-produced with the UL College of the Arts series of Pulse talks organized by Dr. Christopher Bennett. Please note the program starts at 5:30 PM and is located in Fletcher Hall, Room 134 (ground level).

Fri Feb 3: 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Spring Season Opening Reception

Join us in celebration of four new exhibitions! Drinks and light refreshments generously provided by Bon Temps Grill and Republic National Distributing Company.

Wed Apr 5: 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Book Signing and Gallery Tour with Dr. Christopher Bennett

Check out the museum's latest publication, which supports the dual exhibitions "Sandra Eula Lee: Make of / Make do" and "Yun-Fei Ji: Looking for Lehman Brothers". Features a guided tour by guest curator and author Dr. Christopher Bennett, Assistant Professor of Art History at UL Lafayette.

Wed Apr 12: 6:00 – 8:00 PM

"Politics of Place" Panel Discussion

Stay tuned for details on this conversation rooted in the ideas of artists featured in our spring season of exhibitions. The discussion engages local community voices on the interrelated topics of geography, ecology, history, and culture.

Wed Apr 26: 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Guided Tour of Spring Exhibitions

Take one last trip through the exhibition galleries with a tour led by Hilliard Museum staff.