



AT HILLYER

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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What: April 2019 Exhibitions Featuring solo exhibitions by Bryanna Millis and Heidi Zenisek, and the group exhibition *Parallelism: Halcyon Arts Lab 2019*

When: April 5 – 28, 2019

Where: IA&A at Hillyer, 9 Hillyer Court NW, Washington, DC 20008

Opening Reception: Friday April 5, 2019, 6-9pm
(During Dupont Circle's First Friday; Free, \$8 Suggested Donation)

More Info: <http://athillyer.org>

Description: Hillyer presents three new exhibitions opening on April's First Friday, featuring solo shows by Bryanna Millis and Heidi Zenisek, and the group exhibition *Parallelism: Halcyon Arts Lab 2019*. Millis' *Imagination of Salvation: Actions on the Land* incorporates documented site-specific actions, mixed-media collage, and poetry that is inspired by her work at Al Azraq, a former desert oasis in Eastern Jordan that has been decimated by 30 years of groundwater over-pumping and resource mismanagement. Zenisek's work, *Gestate*, parallels society's abuse of ecology with man's mistreatment of women; an ecofeminist epic in the age of the Anthropocene. *Parallelism: Halcyon Arts Lab 2019* allows for glimpses into the wider, complex artistic practices of the current Halcyon Arts Lab Fellows, whose work tackles different topics related to imperative issues of social justice. Guests can meet the artists at the opening reception on Friday, April 5th from 6-9pm, during Dupont Circle's First Friday Gallery Walk.

(Washington, DC) IA&A at Hillyer (formerly Hillyer Art Space) presents three new exhibitions opening on April's First Friday, featuring solo shows by Bryanna Millis and Heidi Zenisek, and the group

exhibition *Parallelism: Halcyon Arts Lab 2019*. The exhibitions will **open on Friday, April 5, 2019 and will run through Sunday, April 28, 2019**. The artists will be present to talk about their work with visitors at the **opening reception on Friday, April 5, 2019 from 6-9pm**.

Parallelism: Halcyon Arts Lab 2019

The language of art transcends the challenges of modern civic dialogue. It is a vehicle to create accessible and multi-layered interaction around topics that we may find uncomfortable or controversial. It is an essential part of our culture, our humanity, and the fabric of society.

The eight Halcyon Arts Lab Fellows are using their platform as Halcyon artists to engage communities and stakeholders alike in conversations about imperative issues of social justice. This exhibition, the only group exhibition of the residency, allows for glimpses into the wider, complex artistic practices of the Halcyon artists. These works aim to inspire conversation around the role of artists in conversations around impact as well as to represent a unique moment in the Fellows' experience in Washington, DC.

These artists exemplify Halcyon's belief that artists are not only leaders in their disciplines, but also catalysts at the intersection of art and social justice.

-Nicole Dowd, Director of Arts Program, Halcyon

Featuring:

Kelli Rae Adams

Kokayi

Jessica Mehta

Tariq O'Meally

Joao Pina

Ada Pinkston

Mengxi "Althea" Rao

Naoko Wowsugi

Bryanna Millis: *Imagination of Salvation: Actions on the Land*

In *Imagination of Salvation*, Bryanna Millis works with local partners from Al Azra, a former desert oasis in Eastern Jordan that has been decimated by 30 years of groundwater over-pumping and resource mismanagement. Through this work she seeks to create a visual lexicon to understand how mind, body, and heart-centered knowledge can lead us to overcome powerlessness and cynicism and take action for change. *Imagination of Salvation: Actions on the Land* presents the first phase of this work, including documented site-specific actions, mixed-media collage, poetry, and local memories focused on understanding the land, its history, and its dreams for the future.

Bryanna Millis is a collage artist, writer, and international economist living in Washington, DC. She received a BA in Communications with a Minor in Fine Arts from the University of Pennsylvania in 1996 and an MA in Development Economics from The Fletcher School at Tufts University in 2004. As an international economist, Bryanna has lived and worked in the Middle East since 2008, with a focus on supporting the competitiveness of small businesses in Palestine and Jordan. She has exhibited her work extensively in Washington, DC and New York, NY, most recently at Target Gallery at the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria VA, and at the Clio Art Fair in Chelsea, NYC.

Heidi Zenisek: *Gestate*

Heidi Zenisek's *Gestate* parallels society's abuse of ecology with man's mistreatment of women; an ecofeminist epic in the age of the Anthropocene. Facets of Zenisek's childhood on an Iowa farm inform how she embodies scale, movement, insemination, and renewal; agricultural detritus being her material

of choice. She uses sculptural assemblage and installation as platforms to abstract, interpolate, and find a rediscovered relevance within the refuse.

Zenisek is a sculptor from Iowa City, IA where she received her BFA in Sculpture from the University of Iowa and spent her younger years on a farm surrounded by dirt, cows, corn and rust. Since then, she has lived and exhibited throughout Iceland, participated in numerous residencies, worked at sculpture parks and galleries, and was most recently awarded the Dean's Fellowship to begin graduate school at the University of Maryland.

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Gallery Information

IA&A at Hillyer (formerly Hillyer Art Space) is a program of International Arts & Artists (IA&A), a nonprofit arts service organization dedicated to promoting cross-cultural understanding and exposure to the arts internationally. IA&A fulfills its mission by providing programs and services to artists, arts institutions, cultural organizations, and the public. Hillyer supports IA&A's mission through a series of exhibitions and public programs that feature local, regional, and international artists. Hillyer's exhibition series focuses on under-represented artists, both emerging and established, that have not had a major solo exhibition within the last three years. We are located in Dupont Circle, next to the Phillips Collection, in Washington, DC., two blocks from the Red Line Metro, Dupont Circle Q Street Exit. The gallery is open seven days a week, Saturday-Monday 12-5pm, Tuesday-Friday 12-6pm, and by appointment.

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High-resolution images available upon request