

**For Immediate Release**

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**The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art opens  
THREE new exhibitions**



***Detritus*, June 25 – September 10**

***Heather Wilcoxon: At Sea*, June 25 – September 10**

***Kate Rhoades: Karen*, June 25 - September 3**

**SAN JOSE, CA – June 2017 –** The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) is pleased to announce three new exhibitions opening in June. The **Opening Reception** will be held on **Sunday, June 25**; Members Preview 1-2pm and Public Reception 2-4pm.

***Detritus***

June 25 – September 10

Main Gallery and Cardinale Project Room

*Detritus* is an exhibition exploring the leftover, the scraps, the byproducts of the art-making process that artists do not discard for a number of compelling reasons. *What is the significance of a wall marked by an accumulation of paint and fingerprints spanning a lifetime of studio work? What does a jar full of eraser shavings reveal about the studio practice of an artist who draws?* Taking inspiration from the field of forensics, this exhibition examines the detritus from a multitude of studio practices of Bay

Area artists in hopes of shifting the focus from art as commodity, to the core value of art making.

Process, materiality, concept, engagement, and marketability are among the metrics by which we measure the value of art. Sometimes the focus is so guided by one or more of these metrics that the resulting artwork serves as a document of the pursuit of these attributes. Hidden from public view, residual evidence of art production does not hold ostensible market value, despite the high value artists often assign to the processes through which they make their work.

This exhibition delves into this valuation. By organizing and featuring no works of "art" whatsoever, we hope to inspire both viewers and participating artists alike to consider their own valuation system when seeing and thinking about art. By mining storage boxes and materials hiding in plain sight, we gain insight into the unique and similar behaviors of artists who archive the evidence of their work. And through the examination of the production "waste" gathered from more than one-hundred exhibiting artists, we see only a glimpse into the time spent, and labor, in producing their work.

*Detritus* is guest curated by Kevin B. Chen, Lisa Ellsworth, and Lordy Rodriguez.

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***Detritus* is supported by a generous grant from the Applied Materials Foundation.**



**Heather Wilcoxon: At Sea**  
**June 25 – September 10**  
**Focus Gallery**

Despite living on the water for most of her life and calling the Delta Queen, a 100-year-old boat, home for the last 25 years, Heather Wilcoxon only recently began to focus on boats as her primary subject matter. She is perhaps best known for her quirky, cartoon-like creatures with skinny tails and snaggle-toothed snouts who visually

communicated Wilcoxon's concerns about the contemporary human condition, "like greed, narcissism, power mongering and the destruction of the planet."

Wilcoxon's current series of boat paintings portrays a distinctively different mood. There is more darkness, more hurt, and a deep, but quiet kind of sadness. They are devoid of the humor that pervades her previous work. While she has used boat images before, she has never worked on a series of them. She photographs boats, boat yards, and old hulls in and around her waterfront neighborhood and then draws from memory or dives right into a painting. According to Wilcoxon, "I felt that the boat form could be explored on many levels: the metaphor of decay, my dealings with cancer, to dealing with our current federal administration. And the physical beauty that surrounds me is ever changing – the tide comes in, the tide goes out. The wind, the fog, the light, the clouds, the winters, the bird migrations, the marsh by my boat – all affect my daily practice."

Wilcoxon received her MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute in 1988. She has exhibited both nationally and internationally. Her work is in several permanent collections including The American University Museum, Washington DC, The Fine Arts Museum, Achenbach Foundation of Graphic Arts in San Francisco, the Di Rosa Preserve in Napa, and the de Saisset Museum and Triton Museum in Santa Clara. She has taught at the College of Marin, UC Berkeley Extension, San Francisco Art Institute, JFK University, California College of the Arts, Center for the Book, National Institute of Art and Disabilities and The Richmond Art Center.

*Adrift: New Works by Heather Wilcoxon*, will be presented in conjunction with the ICA's exhibition at Jack Fischer Gallery in San Francisco from June 17 – July 29.

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***Heather Wilcoxon: At Sea* is supported in part by ICA Director's Circle Members.**



**Kate Rhoades: Karen**  
June 25 – September 3  
Off Center Gallery

In *Kate Rhoades: Karen*, Oakland-based artist Kate Rhoades brings attention to the Junk Lady, the memorable supporting character in Jim Henson's 1986 cult classic film *Labyrinth*. In the original movie, the Junk Lady appears as a surly woman

who obsessively collects rejected furniture, pots, pans, and children's toys atop her back. She lives amongst other junk people in the Junk Fields. But how did she get there? According to Rhoades, she was *Karen*, a daughter who became lost meandering through a field of discarded objects.

This video was created during Rhoades' recent artist residency at Recology (also known as the "dump"), San Francisco's solid waste and recycling center. She sourced all the material for her video: she transformed trash into brightly colored puppets and piled heaps of discarded ladders, Christmas ornaments, and textiles to design the set. In *Karen*, Rhoades elaborately constructs a world where the viewer gains insight into the Junk Lady's past life. The ICA will be the first venue to screen *Karen* outside of the Recology Artist-in-Residence context.

Born in Monclova, Ohio, Rhoades' art practice varies in media from comic books and publications to paintings and performances. Her work comments on the facets of the ever-changing art world. Humor is the marker of Rhoades' art, and is often juxtaposed with her interest in theory. She shares, "Over-acting, cheesy special effects, slapstick, and childish humor are used in contrast with the seriousness of the worlds...Through the use of fantasies and alternative realities I explore different roles, act out fears and anxieties, and in showing their absurdity, I might diminish their power over me, and perhaps over the viewer."

Kate Rhoades received her MFA from Mills College in 2014. Recent solo exhibitions of her work have been held at Oakland's Burnt Oak Gallery and the Recology Artist Residency Program in San Francisco. Her videos have been presented in the San Francisco International Film Festival and the Santa Fe International New Media Festival. She has participated in exhibitions at Trestle Gallery in Brooklyn, Southern Exposure in San Francisco, and the di Rosa in Napa, in addition to presenting her work in various publications, hotel rooms and alleyways across North America and Europe.

***Kate Rhoades: Karen* is supported in part by ICA Members.**



## Related Public Programs

### Opening Reception

Sunday, June 25

Members preview, 1pm-2pm

Public reception, 2pm-4pm

The reception is open and free to the public from 2pm-4pm. ICA members are invited 1pm-2pm. Participating artists will be in attendance.

### Summer Exhibitions Closing Party

Sunday, September 10

1pm-4pm

### Talking Art

Conversations, workshops, panel discussions and artist professional development programs. Open to the public. Ticketed events.

ICA Members, Free admission to select Talking Art events

Non Members, \$10

Students, Free

Sunday July 16, 3-4PM *Heather Wilcoxon: Artist's Talk*

Sunday, August 6, 3-4PM *Detritus: Artists and Curators Walkthrough*

### ICA Live!

Presented during South First Fridays, *ICA Live!* explores the role of performance art in contemporary society. Free and open to the public.

Friday, August 4, *Kate Rhoades: Karen*, screening and a chat with the artist

### Portfolio Reviews

Sunday, August 13

10am-3pm

Registration begins Tuesday, July 18, 10am

In this annual artist professional development program leading curators, art dealers, and educators provide expert advice and insights in a portfolio critique. Each artist participant will have the opportunity to meet with two reviewers for 20 minutes each (chosen during registration.)

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#### **Images:**

Image courtesy of **Sheila Ghidini**

Image courtesy of **Tanja Geis**

**Heather Wilcoxon**, *Wet*, 2016, Oil on paper mounted on canvas, 24 x 22 inches

**Kate Rhoades**, *still from Karen*, 2016