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Exhibit Showcases Seattle Artists Kelda Martensen & Glenn Tramantano

September 24th - October 25th, 2012
Artist Talk and Reception – Thursday, October 18th, 10am-12pm

South Seattle Community College Art Gallery
Jerry Brockey Student Center
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Kelda Martensen
Artist Statement
www.keldamartensen.com

These works tell a poetic and open narrative set between city and dreamscape – where memories, dreams and observations overlap and coexist on the same plane. My range of mark making, ideas, gestures and visual references develops through my experience as a printmaker and collage artist. I am inspired by the concept that beauty and sadness coexist, and intrigued by the quest to define home. My work is driven by personal allegory, though is essentially human as I interpret questions of individual and collective memory, cultural history, and natural wonder.

Kelda Martensen maintains a studio practice focused in the paper, book and print arts. She serves as visual arts faculty at North Seattle Community College and an instructor of printmaking at Pratt Fine Art Center. Kelda received her MFA in Visual Art from the Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Art at Washington University in St. Louis. Recent awards include the Larry Sommers Art Fellowship Merit Award and residency at the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris, France. Kelda was born in Tacoma and lives and works in Seattle.
“Someplace where there isn’t any trouble. Do you suppose there is such a place, Toto?”

In the early 1980’s the Naval Investigative Service was attempting to root out homosexual personnel from the U.S. military. Through their investigation, agents became aware of the term “friend of Dorothy,” a common euphemism used in the second half of the 20th century to refer to gay men. It is thought that the term originated with the famous character of Dorothy Gale, played by the iconic Judy Garland, in The Wizard of Oz. Not knowing the history behind the phrase, the N.I.S agents were convinced that a real woman named Dorothy existed who was at the center of a massive ring of homosexual military men. In an attempt to expose these men, they launched a search for “Dorothy.”

This ongoing body of work re-imagines the world of Oz through the lens of that historical moment of confusion. It bleeds fact into fiction and the past with the present in an attempt to explore the history of a discriminatory policy and, more importantly, the misperceptions, misinterpretations and miscommunications that often lead us into conflict.

Glenn Tramantano is a mixed media artist and educator who currently lives and works in Seattle. He holds a Masters of Fine Art from Washington University in St. Louis and a Bachelors of Arts from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.
The mission of the South Seattle Community College Art Gallery is to introduce students and the community at large to unique artists and their works. Receptions are given to afford the opportunity of interacting with the artists. The local and campus community is encouraged to visit the Art Gallery to enjoy the inspiring works of art.

Admission is always free and open to the public. For gallery hours and information about future exhibits, visit http://studentlife.southseattle.edu/art.html

Media Inquiries
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