

February 23, 2016

For Immediate Release

Kristan Kennedy, *Sunday*

March 4 through April 16, 2016

The Crisp-Ellert Art Museum and Flagler College are pleased to announce “Sunday,” an exhibition by Portland, Oregon based artist Kristan Kennedy. Including a new series of paintings alongside older works, the exhibition will kick off with a walkthrough by the artist on Friday, March 4 at 4pm, and a reception will follow from 5 to 9pm. The exhibition will continue through April 16.

Kennedy has confessed that she wants her work to be about nothing, or an attempt to get at nothing. Eschewing narrative she instead utilizes gesture and abstraction to carve out a space in which the struggle to “create nothing out of something” (erasure, or forgetting) can occur.

The artist values flexibility in her works, claiming “my paintings are often seeking places, or forms. I like them on the wall, but, I also like them to take shape around or as something.” During a site visit last spring, she became fixated with the bundles of “red ginger and palm fronds with green and brown bits” that were wrapped in burlap and “plunked around campus like wonderful sculptures.” It is fitting then, that Kennedy will utilize these sculptural bundles in which to wrap her own paintings, blurring the distinction between the two by removing them from their utilitarian environment, obfuscating their intended function and placing them in the gallery where, to the artist, they make more sense.

Embracing this elasticity, she prefers her works to “remain unfixed and un-stretched” so they can appear at home in different configurations. Her painting *4.A.M.W.H.N.U.W.H.R.O.N.D.A.C.R.B.N.I.W.S.N.D.A.G.U.T.R.* from 2013, imprinted with crushed cans and other bits and bobs and measuring an impressive 178 inches long, has only ever been shown in part due to it’s size, but at the Crisp-Ellert the piece will take advantage of the museum’s walls and be displayed completely. Likewise, responding to the “idiosyncratic” museum space and inspired by architectural details from the Hotel Ponce de Leon and around Saint Augustine, Kennedy will make use of hand-made iron hooks and armatures, on which to drape her paintings.

Kennedy laboriously works and reworks the surface of her primarily un-stretched, raw linen paintings. Eradicating information as much as she builds it up, the artist leaves her pieces in dye baths for extended periods of time, washes and scrubs, affixes stray bits and pieces collected from her studio and from friends, and adds or obscures with acrylic, sumi ink, and bleach, among others. The outcome of these accumulated actions is an eloquent body of work that bears more than a trace of the labor of painting. As Stephanie Snyder has written, the painting’s “intense dialectic of beauty and repulsion mirrors the artist’s philosophical struggles—we sense

that both artist and artwork have gone through the wringer—together—to achieve the hard-won grace so palpable in the work.”

Kennedy's work has recently been exhibited at Soloway, Brooklyn, NY, Fourteen30 Contemporary, Portland, Misako & Rosen, Tokyo, and Zzzzzzz, New York. As the Visual Art Curator at the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA), she focuses on commissioning new work by international emerging artists in the form of large-scale, site-specific installations and solo projects that exist at the borders of genres, including organizing music, performance art, publications, and new media projects as part of PICA's year-round programming and for the organization's annual Time-Based Art Festival. She currently teaches Contemporary Art History at Portland State University, where she also organizes their MFA Visiting Artist Program and Lecture Series.

This program is generously supported through a grant from [The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida](#).

For further information on the exhibition and related programs, please visit the website at www.flagler.edu/crispellert, or contact Julie Dickover at 904-826-8530 or crispellert@flagler.edu. The museum's hours are Monday through Friday, 10 am to 4pm and Saturday, 12 to 4pm. Please note that the museum will be closed during Flagler College's Spring Break, from March 19 – 26, 2016.