

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GREENHILL EXPLORES ART AND SCIENCE IN FALL EXHIBITION, MICROCOSM

(GREENSBORO, NC) Greenhill announces *Microcosm* an exhibition of six artists whose artworks explore the intersections between art and science offering thought-provoking perspectives of objects and organisms at the atomic and cellular level that are invisible to the naked eye. Curated by Edie Carpenter, the exhibition opens September 18 and runs through November 10, 2015, featuring the work of artists Daniel Kariko, Mark Koven, Amanda Small, Mike Sonnichsen, Georgia Titcomb, and Jeff Whetstone. At the opening on September 18, Greenhill invites viewers to explore how microscopic worlds take on a new perspective. Michael Boykin, of Marine Reef, Inc. will invite attendees to operate a Hitachi tabletop SEM by zooming in and around samples.

Scientific imagery has become increasingly accessible with the advent of digital media. Google Earth views of underwater coral reefs, webcams of endangered species, and International Space Station shots of named storms all have entered the public image bank. Images produced with scientific equipment such as the Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) regularly pepper mass media. A SEM uses electrons instead of light to form an image allowing for much higher resolution and greater depth of field and magnification than a conventional microscope. A slide show of works produced by scientists and students at the Chapel Hill Analytical and Nanofabrication Laboratory of the Department of Applied Physical Sciences, University of North Carolina will demonstrate the variety of artistic applications for this technology. The works were selected by CHANL director, Dr. Carrie Donley from entries in the laboratory's annual scientific art competition.

Images seen on a small scale can change our understanding of the world. *Microcosm* challenges the viewer to question whether biological images, most commonly associated with disease or decay, are aesthetically beautiful. The artists' works investigate scientific objectivity evoking private worlds and internal narratives. Included in the exhibition are works by Daniel Kariko, from ongoing investigations on altered environments for which he utilized a SEM to meet the insect community living around his suburban home. The result is a series of composite insect "portraits" through which unknown housemates become individuals humanized to raise awareness about habitat loss.

Mark Koven's installations depict various types of bacteria as a metaphoric representation of the beginnings of life. They include live cultures, prints with color pencil added onto the surface, stereographic images that recreate 3-D microcosmic landscapes, as well as photographic lenticular images. These images and the data collected are then used to produce palm size physical sculptures utilizing a Stereo Lithographic 3D printer. Koven is currently on the faculty at Weber State University in Utah.

Jeff Whetstone has been photographing and writing about the relationship between humans and their environment since he received a zoology degree from Duke University in 1990. For *Microcosm*, Whetstone will present the finished version of *FRAME/ABLATE*, a video projection made using a SEM which invites comparison to early cinematic experiments and surrealist landscape painting as lattice-like forms appear to melt and dematerialize as they are being filmed. He is currently teaching at Princeton University Department of Art.

Mike Sonnichsen's recent work is light-driven, taking form in layered relief prints, translucent sculptural pieces, and color photographs. He reveals an aesthetic richness in familiar found objects with simple yet transformative shifts of medium. Detergent bottles and disposable cola lids are transformed into precious specimens, as brilliant jewel-tones recall the stains used in scientific slides of crystalline formations and DNA chains. Sonnichsen has exhibited extensively throughout North Carolina and is an Assistant Professor of Art and Design at the University of Idaho.

While pursuing her undergraduate degree in Biology at UNC-CH, Georgia Titcomb became fascinated with the layers of life existing at a microscopic scale. She explores "layers that exist in the seams between objective science and expressive art – to evoke new ideas, perspectives, and connections between our own humanity and the science we study." For *Microcosm*, Titcomb will exhibit stop-motion animation and photographs resulting from her

creative exploration of Beta-Amyloid protein believed to have a major role in Alzheimer's disease. Her hauntingly beautiful video of the folding and misfolding of the protein was created by filming plastic bags arranged to resemble SEM images. The SEM was also used to produce micrographs of letterpress prints of scientific symbols for the protein which will also be exhibited. Titcomb is currently a graduate student in Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Amanda Small's mixed media installations "explore the interval between the finite and infinitesimal, as well as humanity's relationship to the universe." Small is creating a site-specific installation combining mundane materials and ambiguous imagery, layered shapes, shadows and lines to evoke the circular worlds grown in petri dishes. Small was the 2012-13 recipient of a North Carolina Arts Commission grant and will be giving an artist talk at UNC-G during *Microcosm*. Small is currently living in Toronto, Ontario.

Edie Carpenter, Director, Curatorial & Artistic Programs, says "Whether the artists employ analytic tools such as the SEM microscope or familiar everyday items such as jars and plastic bags as primary materials, their works help demystify complex scientific and technological phenomena. Exploring the interface of engineering, biology and nanotechnology, their art projects a sense of wonder and evoke the experience of mystery that Einstein theorizes 'stands at the cradle of true art and true science.'" While the artists in *Microcosm* are dealing with complex scientific concepts and techniques in their works, viewers can easily make connections to images that are not only thought provoking but beautiful and illuminating as well.

Lauren Bourne, a recent graduate from Elon University with a Masters in Interactive Media, has developed "Microcosm Interactive," a website designed as an informational interface for *Microcosm*. The website will increase visitors understanding of the artwork by exploring how and why these artists chose their subject matter and artistic process. Interact with illustrations of a 3D printer, Scanning Electron Microscope and listen to interviews with the artists, learn more about the processes and technology used. Interdisciplinary in spirit the exhibition is accompanied by a roundtable by NC experts in new technologies who will introduce the public to regional resources and an artist talk on new horizons opened up by microscopy that will spark substantial conversations about "the miniature" in the context of our lives. All programs are listed online at www.greenhillnc.org/microcosm.

ASSOCIATED PROGRAMS

First Friday at Greenhill - Live Music by Magpie Thief

September 4 | 6 – 9 PM

Join us for First Friday with live music by Magpie Thief from 6:30 - 7:30 PM. Playing together for years, Emily Stewart and Matty Sheets strip down their songs for a road worthy acoustic duo. Folk music with heart and street smarts.

Artist Talk | Amanda Small at Gatewood Studio Arts Building, UNC-G

September 17 | 6 – 7 PM

Amanda Small will discuss how through her art she "visualizes aspects of the natural world, taking micro and macro views of the earth, cells, satellite mapping, topographies and systematic patterning" during a slide presentation hosted by the UNC-G Department of Art.

Exhibition Opening | *Microcosm*

September 18 | 5:30 - 8:30 PM

Greenhill presents works that offer perspectives on the very small, the unseen, and the atomic, cellular level of natural and artificial forms. Mediums on display include photography, video, sculpture, and installation. Michael Boykin, of Marine Reef, Inc. will invite attendees to operate a Hitachi tabletop SEM by zooming in and around samples. Members and sponsors preview from 5:30 to 6:30 PM. The exhibition opens to the public at 6:30 PM. Light refreshments and cash bar.

Adult Workshop | Art + Science Inspired Watercolor Paintings

Tuesday, September 22, 2015 | 1 - 4 PM and 6 - 9 PM

Create your own watercolor inspired by the intersections of science and art as examined in Greenhill's exhibition *Microcosm*. In this workshop you will visit the exhibition and learn about the many ways NC artists use microscopes as inspirations for their art. Look through microscopes to discover dramatic colors, patterns and textures and return to the ArtQuest Studios where Laura Maruzzella will guide you through watercolor techniques. Each participant will create one or more 10" x 10" watercolor paintings mimicking the layered patterning found in microscopic imagery, with the option to mount one for display on 12" x 12" white matte board

to take home. Bring your own drinks and food. Cost is \$35. Space is limited. To reserve your space go to: www.greenhillinc.org/adult-workshops.

First Friday at Greenhill – Live Music by the Raving Knaves

Friday, October 2, 2015 | 6 – 9 PM

Join us for First Friday and live music by the Raving Knaves from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. The Raving Knaves are an original rock-n-roll band based in Greensboro, North Carolina. The idea behind Raving Knaves is lean, three-chord rock with an R&B basis. Chuck Berry-style songwriting brings a lot of detail and references. But ultimately the idea is to create a physical experience for the audience. Free and open to the public. Cash Bar.

Art Under the Microscope | A Dialogue with Katherine Shields and Daniel Kariko

Wednesday, October 14 from 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Join in the conversation with Guilford College art historian Katherine Shields and *Microcosm* artist Daniel Kariko. Shields will speak about the imaginative potential for collaborations between art and science using historical examples. Kariko will discuss how he combines effects from Stereo and Scanning Electron Microscopes to create portraits of insects or what he calls “overlooked houseguests” humanizing them in efforts to raise awareness about habitat loss. The dialogue session will offer time throughout for audience questions. Free and open to the public.

New Technologies for Exploring Hidden Worlds | A Roundtable with Dr. Carrie Donley, Dr. Michael R. Falvo and Dr. Dennis LaJeunesse

Wednesday, October 28 from 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Microcosm, an exhibition at Greenhill, explores the intersections between art and science, illuminating the possibilities and potentials for the ways that microscopic imagery and technological advancements can change our worldview in science, technology, and the arts. Using easily understood terminology, three N.C. based experts will discuss advances opened up by new types of microscopes and offer implications for art, science, and technologies. Free and open to the public.

First Friday at Greenhill – Live Music by Chris Tuttle

Friday, November 11, 2015 | 6 – 9 PM

Join us for First Friday and live music by Chris Tuttle from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. Chris Tuttle, a Nashville veteran songwriter and photographer, has toured with acts such as Emmylou Harris, Jewel, Rodney Crowell, and Raul Malo. Born in Winston-Salem, North Carolina to a musical family Chris has an infused Americana and Folk songwriting style. Free and open to the public. Cash Bar.

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PRESS IMAGES

Image 1: Daniel Kariko *Front Yard, Bench, May 23rd (Green Tree Cricket), Series Suburban Symbiosis Insectum Domesticus*, 2014, Archival Pigment Print from Scanning Electron Microscope and Stereo Microscope Composite, 16 x 19 inches ©Daniel Kariko



Image 2: Mark Koven, *Swarm* (Detail), Installation 24 petri dishes using bioluminescent fungus and bacteria, 2011 ©Mark Koven



Image 3: Jeff Whetstone, *FRAME/ABLATE*, 2013, Video created using Scanning Electron Microscope. Credits: Stephen Vitiello, Musical Score, Wallace Ambrose, CHANL Lab, microscopy supervisor, Carrie Donnelly, CHANL Lab, training, Georgia Titcomb, Assistant. ©Jeff Whetstone

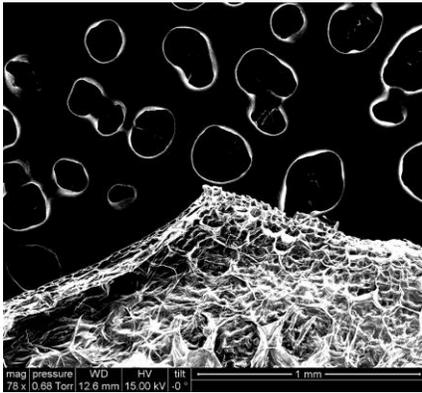


Image 4: Mike Sonnichsen, *Cola Lids*, 2010, C-print, 24x20 inches ©Mike Sonnichsen



Image 5: Georgia Titcomb, *Nucleosome* (2013), acrylic on canvas, 30 x 40 inches ©Georgia Titcomb



Image 6: Amanda Small, *Concomitance*, 2014, colored porcelain, digital imagery, acrylic, LED lights, motion sensor, 15 ft x 7 ft. Photo Credit William van den Hoed



Image 7: *As part of the exhibition opening on September 18, Greenhill invites the viewers to interact with a Hitachi tabletop Scanning Electron Microscope. Led by a representative of Marine Reef, Inc., Michael Boykin, attendees will be able to operate the instrument and move from sample to sample.*

Photo courtesy CHANL, Chapel Hill Analytical and Nanofabrication Laboratory, Department of Applied Physical Sciences, University of North Carolina, Photo Credit Lars Sahl

