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ALBANY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PRESENTS *Chasing the Tale*

Albany, NY (August 18, 2017) - - - The Albany International Airport Art & Culture Program will present *Chasing the Tale*, an exhibition in which artists engaged in a pictorial expression of storytelling cross personal mythology with collected narratives from historical, folk and popular culture. The exhibition will run from August 26, 2017 through February 26, 2018. A public reception will be held on September 15, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.



Ira Marcks, selection from *March 3* series, pen, ink, watercolor, 2009

tricksters and gods, chickens and robots – hybrids of the American pop culture and Native Pueblo reservation culture that have shaped Martinez’ life. The works exhibited here convey a fluidity between the traditional mythology of the Pueblo and that of modern culture; their coexistence an expression of the way in which stories can both describe and build identity.



Kenny Harris, *Imaginenagerie* (detail), ink, paper, wire, 2017

Through exquisitely detailed drawings, **Ira Marcks** unspools stories of people who encounter extraordinary beasts, magical circumstances and transformative journeys. Among other works, this exhibition features his epic collaboration with the band, The Few Moments, in which their 45 minute composition, *March 3*, is illuminated by Marcks’ 80 foot long scrolling video illustration, with the original drawings also on view.

Jason Blue Lake Hawk Martinez’ vibrant paintings are populated by



Jason Blue Lake Hawk Martinez, *Hive Dancer*, acrylic, gouache on board, 2016

Kenny Harris’ densely populated installations of hand-drawn and cut figures bring together mythological creatures from widely diverse peoples and places. They are unified by both Harris’ stark black and white renderings and his arrangement of them in groups that defy their distinct origins. These assemblies underscore the notion that myths and the characters that inhabit them express something universal about our collective interest in describing who we are through creative, fantastical narratives.

Among the poetic, mysterious sculptures **Amy Podmore** has loaned for this exhibition are a group of 77 plaster masks that she cast from a wide variety of found baskets. Mounted to a wall, and occasionally blinking their small, inset eyes, these faces are at once odd huntsman's trophies and a collection of charming, quizzical characters who watch us even as we observe them.



Amy Podmore, *Untitled (Audience)* detail, plaster casts of baskets, mixed media, motors, 2016



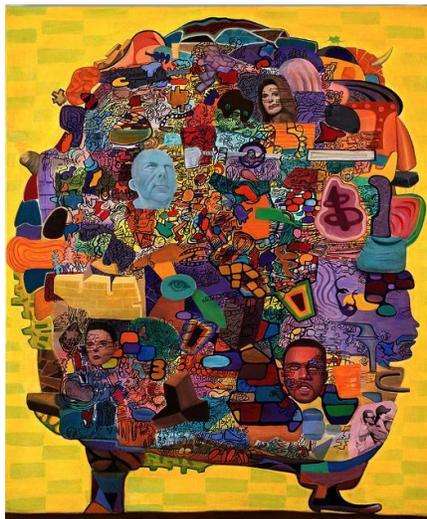
Gerda van Leeuwen, *The Resister*, monoprint, watercolor on Arches, 2017

While some of the artists in *Chasing the Tale* draw upon fictional subjects for their work, others find a launchpad in the personae of real-life contemporaries. **Gerda van Leeuwen**'s furry protagonists take on anthropomorphic foibles and disguises. In both her *Jokers* and *Blue Animals* series, the artist enlists otherwise cuddly creatures to mirror back to us various facets of human experience. The masks they wear serve to reveal an individual's true nature rather than hide it.

Similarly, the complex distortions and entanglements that mark **Fernando Orellana**'s subjects reveal a sort of psychological portraiture times funny, irreverent and wildly animated. Featured in this exhibition is an installation of nearly one hundred small pen and ink drawings that Orellana produced over a period of about a year. He made them while sitting in bars and coffee shops, recording in an intuitive, sub-conscious manner the characters and conversations around him; the slices of eros and pathos that complicate us all.



Fernando Orellana, selection from *Our Indirect Channels* series, ink on paper, 2016-17



Jeff Starr, *Le Freak*, acrylic, oil, ink on linen, 2014

Like Orellana and van Leeuwen, **Jeff Starr** mines present-day personalities and their cults of popularity, as well as the vividly impenetrable and often confounding narratives that bombard us each day. In his paintings, these stories and their subjects appear as thickly layered, intersecting shards of shape and line, out of which emerge carefully rendered figures both beautiful and absurd.

Artists: Jason Blue Lake Hawk Martinez, Kenny Harris, Ira Marcks, Fernando Orellana, Amy Podmore, Jeff Starr, Gerda van Leeuwen

Public reception: Friday September 15, 2017, 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Albany International Airport Gallery, located on the third floor of the Airport terminal, before the security checkpoint. Parking will be validated for the reception. Airport Gallery hours are 7 a.m. – 11 p.m. daily.

For more information please contact Kathy Greenwood, Director of the Art & Culture Program, at 518.242-2241 or arts@albanyairport.com.