



# NEWS RELEASE

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**CONTACT:**  
Kathy Greenwood  
518 242-2243  
[kgreenwood@albanyairport.com](mailto:kgreenwood@albanyairport.com)

## **PATTERNS OF ENGAGEMENT EXHIBITION AT ALBANY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT GALLERY**

Albany, NY (September 25, 2019) - - - The Albany International Airport Gallery will present the exhibition *Patterns of Engagement* from September 28, 2019 - March 2, 2020.

*Patterns of Engagement* is an exhibition of works by contemporary artists, as well as a series of connected activities that reflect the people and character of Albany International Airport. The Airport is undergoing an exciting period of renewal as improvements are made both inside and outside the terminal. This interval of structural change prompted an interest in documenting these historic shifts, as well as taking stock of the airport community and those who work and travel within it.

“By inviting artists to respond to this unique place and time, I hoped to encourage dialogue and discovery between those artists and our populations of travelers and employees,” said Kathy Greenwood, Director of the Airport’s Art & Culture Program, “This required asking new questions, forging new partnerships and redefining art in the Airport as something that can be shaped by those who inhabit the space.” The approach to this exhibition was different than any other presented to date.

Eight artists were invited to conduct investigations and observations into the Airport’s people, infrastructure and systems, and develop new works of art based upon those experiences and interactions. Those artists are Tasha Depp, Adam Frelin, Richard Garrison, Jack Magai, Laini Nemett, Chris St. Cyr, Chris Victor and Deborah Zlotzky.

**Tasha Depp** is adept at sketching in public places and quickly capturing the gestures of people and passage of time. Her chosen materials are often digital tablet and stylus, but also just as likely are materials that would otherwise be thrown away. For months, Depp has been visiting the Airport, sketching employees and travelers in a variety of locations, and collecting debris from the terminal that was bound for the dumpster. The result is a series of digital drawings that convey the stories and characters of daily life at the Airport, as well as a panoramic painting made on multiple, overlapping layers of things like carpet, Plexiglas, cardboard boxes.

**Adam Frelin** is an artist whose work crosses disciplines of sculpture, video, and performance, and is often occupied with surprising junctures between our built and natural worlds. Airport visitors approaching the checkpoint on the second floor will be treated to a view of *Summit*, Frelin’s illusion of a snowy mountain peak emerging from the third floor Gallery. In development is a site-specific project for Concourse B in the terminal in which passersby will view the aerial landscape over Albany Airport through what appear to be the windows of an aircraft. This installation was developed through research with Albany’s Air Traffic Control and an aerial photography shoot courtesy of a generous local pilot.

**Richard Garrison** distills selected bits of visual information into rigorously ordered, painted grid structures that are exacting and beautiful. For *Patterns of Engagement*, Garrison revisited a favorite subject - parking lots. The artist made a series of plein air paintings from the vantage point of our parking structure that document the colors and positions of cars in the Airport's short and long term parking lots.

**Jack Magai** is a dancer and performance artist who is interested in the way in which individuals move through both built and natural environments. Waiting is an experience endemic to airports, and Magai considered how travelers might engage in a set of deliberate, meditative activities while anticipating the next part of their journey. *Instructions for Passing Time* is a guided audio experience that encourages participants to discover renewed awareness through a series of subtle, ordinary movements.

**Laini Nemett** paints buildings that are either under construction or in decline. She says that she likes the possibilities she sees at both ends of a building's life. For this exhibition, Nemett will present a series of paintings that document the construction events that the Airport is undergoing. Over several weeks, Nemett painted on site in numerous locations, describing the arc of a crane and the meeting of concrete and steel against a blue summer sky.

**Chris St. Cyr** is a graphic designer, and approached the challenge of engaging Airport audiences by developing a scavenger hunt for both the public and employees. St. Cyr photographed places in the terminal accessible to both groups, and then created kaleidoscopic patterned images using those photographs. Graphic 'clues' at each photographed site lead viewers to the third floor Gallery, where they can enjoy the exhibition, and enter a drawing to win a framed print of one of the patterned photographs.

**Chris Victor's** sculptures are vast assemblies of everyday materials like straws, plastic bags and hot glue that have been meticulously reduced to elements of texture, color and line. In addition to the complex, layered works on view in the Gallery, Victor is developing a site-specific installation for a location on Concourse B that will incorporate materials gleaned from the Airport's construction projects, which would otherwise have been discarded.

**Deborah Zlotzky**, a painter and 2019 Guggenheim Foundation Fellow, asked Airport employees to fold and then deposit dozens of paper airplanes into special collection boxes. Zlotzky then went through a process of unfolding the planes and re-aligning the linear creases and geometric shapes into four separate compositions. Three of those will appear in the Gallery exhibition as direct-painted large-scale wall murals, and one will be printed and installed on a 27' expanse in the first floor ticketing area.

A public reception for this exhibition will be held on Friday, January 17, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Albany International Airport Gallery, which is on the third floor of the main terminal before the Security Checkpoint.

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### **THE ALBANY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT'S ART & CULTURE PROGRAM**

Since 1998, the Albany International Airport's Art & Culture Program has sought to showcase the cultural vitality of New York's Capital Region through exhibitions and installations throughout the Airport's terminal. Such presentations enhance the experience of airport travelers and foster the advancement of a thriving creative community. The Art & Culture Program has become a cornerstone for demonstrating the breadth and quality of the arts throughout the Region as well as a resource for learning about local culture. Through exhibitions presented in the Albany International Airport Gallery and the Concourse Galleries, the Exhibition Case Program, free public programs and group tours, the Art & Culture Program has extended the reach of area artists and museums to an audience of more than 3 million people each year.