



CONTACT:

Kathy Greenwood

Director, Exhibitions & Programs

518-242-2243

kgreenwood@albanyairport.com

albanyairportartandcultureprogram.com

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBANY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ANNOUNCES A NEW EXHIBITION, *THE LIFE AROUND US*, AND SITE-SPECIFIC INSTALLATION, *STREAM*

(Wednesday, April 13, 2022, Albany, NY) Albany International Airport is pleased to present the exhibition, *The Life Around Us*, in the Albany International Airport Gallery, from May 7 - August 29, 2022, featuring recent paintings by **Ashley Norwood Cooper and Heidi Johnson**. Opening concurrently with this exhibition is *Stream*, a site-specific installation by **Laura Moriarty** in the stairwell to the Airport Gallery. **An in-person reception** will be held on **Saturday, May 14, from 3 - 5 pm**. Images for reproduction and a checklist can be accessed through this link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2ke5dj9y41uas5/AABZPm4XyP0LzkDQ0OuOzg9Na?dl=0>

Ashley Norwood Cooper and Heidi Johnson's paintings in *The Life Around Us* are bold, lushly rendered interpretations of daily life. Within these scenes of human activity and repose are a chorus of creatures, both wild and domestic, that express a network of relationships to us, to one another, and to the places they inhabit. Kathy Greenwood, Director of the Airport's Art & Culture Program and exhibition curator, observes "these paintings reflect a sensitivity to the thrum of life. The artists depict animals, plants and insects whose apparent range of freedom and captivity, satisfaction and longing, exuberance and solitude mirror our own human experience over the last couple of years." In compositions of families and individuals both tender and curious, the dreams, thoughts and work of our earthly companions are knitted into the stories.

Laura Moriarty's *Stream* installation reflects her interest in geologic events and processes, and the shifting fluidity of water. A fifteen-foot encaustic monotype print is central to the installation, which hangs in companion with two six foot prints. These were made by dragging one of the artist's vividly-hued and many-layered wax sculptures over a warmed surface and then pressing the paper onto the fluid wax trail. Flanking this group are six framed sumi-ink prints that record a pour of that dark pigment on the surface of a lake or river. *Stream* will be on view for a year.

Albany International Airport Gallery is located pre-security on the third floor of the airport's main terminal and is open to visitors during hours of airport operation.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Ashley Norwood Cooper's intensely colored, painterly, figurative work explores the creative lives of women, the awkwardness of family relationships, and the role of the artist-mother-wife. She has exhibited in solo and group exhibits throughout the US including First Street Gallery (NYC), ZINC contemporary (Seattle) and Galerie Thomas Fuchs (Stuttgart, Germany). Her work has been featured in *New American Paintings* and on the *I Like Your Work* Podcast. Her debut at VOLTA NYC 2020 garnered write-ups in the NY Times and *Arcade Projects Zine* (Columbia University). Ms. Cooper's paintings are included in public and private collections in the United States and Europe

including the McEvoy Foundation for the Arts (San Francisco) and Greenville County Museum of Art (South Carolina).

Heidi Johnson is a contemporary American painter born in 1965 and has a BFA from Tufts University. For Heidi, painting is a form of reconciliation between one's personal experience of temporality and the larger natural world. She is inspired by the density and lush variation of Dutch Still Life of the Golden Age, and its placement of flora and fauna from different continents together on the same plane, suggesting leaps in time and space. Recently, the use of pop design, man made in origin, juxtaposed with creatures, wild and domestic suggests the limitations and distances between our “designing” selves and the endless hybridizations and combinations present in the natural world. Heidi has exhibited her work in numerous galleries in the US, Sweden and Australia. She has received grants and fellowships from the Pollock Krasner Foundation, Sharpe - Walentus Studio Program, New York Foundation for the Arts, Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and Nordisk Kunstsenter, Norway among others. She lives and works in Patterson, NY.

Laura Moriarty makes process-driven works with pigmented beeswax whose forms, colors, textures and patterns result from processes similar to those that shape and reshape the earth. In her work, each layer resurfaces the one below, creating successive tiers that vary in thickness and color, marking new eras, delineating ages, and trapping stories that are part of the time/space continuum. Awards and honors include grants from the Adolph & Esther Gottlieb Foundation and the Pollock-Krasner Foundation, as well as several residencies, including the Baer Art Center in Iceland, and, most recently, The Rabbit Island Artist Residency in Lake Superior. Laura's work has been presented in numerous solo and group exhibitions. In 2021, her solo exhibition, *Resurfacing*, was featured at the Hunterdon Art Museum in New Jersey.

ABOUT THE 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 within the Airport's terminal. Such presentations enhance the experience of airport travelers and foster the advancement of a thriving creative community. The 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 Concourse A Gallery, the Exhibition Case Program, large-scale installations, free public programs and tours, the Art & Culture Program has extended the reach of area artists and museums to an audience of more than three million people each year.

###