

PRESS RELEASE

New MAEP Exhibition by Alyssa Baguss Explores How Technology Has Altered Humans' Relationship with Nature



Alyssa Baguss, *Wish You Were Here*, 2017 150 x 767 in., hand-cut wallpaper mural, Jerome Emerging Artist Program, Rochester Art Center, Rochester, Minnesota

Minneapolis Institute of Art
2400 Third Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55404
artsmia.org

MINNEAPOLIS, October 16, 2019—A new exhibition from the Minnesota Artists Exhibitions Program (MAEP) at the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) explores how personal technology has altered humans' relationship with nature. Showcasing the work of Minneapolis-based artist Alyssa Baguss, "You Were Never Here" examines nature as scenery, people's persistent longing to be elsewhere, and the perception of place through mediated experience. Opening November 21, 2019, in Mia's U.S. Bank Gallery, the exhibition features three new largescale works by Baguss. Related events include an artist talk on Thursday, January 16, 2020.

"Today, Americans attempt to mediate our outdoor experiences through photography, illustration, and social media. Our urban environments are manicured and paved, and our national parks more resemble tourist destinations than natural spaces with very real dangers," said Nicole Soukup, assistant curator of contemporary art. "For 'You Were Never Here,' Baguss poetically illustrates how technology has redefined our relationship to the outdoors."

For this series, Baguss creates both 2- and 3-dimensional works. The first installation, *Headwaters*, is a sheer, floor-to-ceiling curtain imprinted with a panoramic photo of the Mississippi River's headwaters at Lake Itasca. Visitors can step inside the enclosed curtain for a 360-degree view of the outdoors. The experience mimics photo documentation used by real estate agents to create virtual online tours of domestic spaces for sale.

Two massive artworks in the next gallery serve as a theatrical backdrop, setting the stage for landscape as scenery in a digital world. *Understory* is based on a three-dimensional scan of the oak savannah forest at Silverwood Park in Saint Anthony, Minn. Using data from forestry LiDAR (Light Direction and Ranging), which captures the topography of vegetation with a laser-emitting camera, Baguss composes a wall drawing of the forest using stencils and drawing pigments.

Mia

Her third work, *Curtain*, is a hand-folded three-dimensional landscape made from photo wallpaper murals. It hangs vertically from above and drapes across the gallery floor. Employing a common style of map folding called the Miura fold, Baguss manufactures an experience of landscape using mountain and valley folds with domestic materials.

“You Were Never Here” is on view November 21, 2019, through March 1, 2020.

Alyssa Baguss's work has been exhibited at Rochester Art Center, Minnesota Center for Book Arts, Soo Visual Arts Center, and the Minnesota Museum of American Art. Awards include grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board (2015 and 2017) and the Jerome Foundation (2017/2018).

Generous support for MAEP is provided by the McKnight Foundation. Additional support provided by RBC Wealth Management.

Press Contacts

Michaela Baltasar-Feyen

+ 1 612 870 3280

mbaltasar-feyen@artsmia.org

Tammy Pleshek

+ 1 612 870 3171

tpleshek@artsmia.org

About the Minneapolis Institute of Art

Home to more than 90,000 works of art representing 5,000 years of world history, the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) inspires wonder, spurs creativity, and nourishes the imagination. With extraordinary exhibitions and one of the finest art collections in the country—from all corners of the globe, and from ancient to contemporary—Mia links the past to the present, enables global conversations, and offers an exceptional setting for inspiration. General admission to Mia is always free. Some special exhibitions have a nominal admission fee. For more information, call 612.870.3000 or visit artsmia.org.

General admission to Mia is always free. Some special exhibitions have a nominal admission fee.

Museum Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday 10am–5pm

Thursday, Friday 10am–9pm

Sunday 11am–5pm

Monday Closed

For more information, call + 1 612 870 3000 or visit artsmia.org

Mia