

For Immediate Release: New York – February 15, 2016

***Pulp Fiction, imaginary people and places on paper, opens on February 25***

“*Pulp Fiction*” opens at Elisa Contemporary Art on February 25. Our new exhibit focuses on fictional worlds created on paper. Our exhibit travels inside the labs of inventors and mad scientists to the underwater worlds of athletes...from architectural and industrial buildings to abstracted landscapes. These fictional places and people all invite the viewer to glimpse in and then create stories all their own. As stated by featured artist, Melinda Hackett, “*If there is a story to tell, it is up to the viewer to tell it.*”

Our exhibit includes the imaginary characters of:

- Emerging Polish artist, Krzysztof Pastuszka
- Hawaii artist Carol Bennett

The Urban Buildings and Abstracted Worlds of:

- Turkish artist, Yasemin Kackar-Demirel
- Armenian-American artist, Ferdinanda Florence
- New York artist, Melinda Hackett

The people and characters of Krzysztof Pastuszka’s artwork are inspired by those who come up with an outlandish idea...and then make it a reality. According to Krzysztof, “*I am influenced by the romantic idea of an inventor – stumbling upon an idea, researching it, documenting it in detail, then twisting it – noting any peculiarities (real or imagined), and incorporating a bit of humor or whimsy. I’m gravitated toward the eccentric, the reclusive person that thinks up things and makes them happen...thinking inside the head of the possibilities not seen by others and trying to make them realities.*”

Carol Bennett’s figures were originally conceived watching Swimmers train at the LA Athletic Club – the space once used by Olympic coaches in the 1920’s. According to Carol, “*The floor beneath the pool, with its ethereal skylight, was an underwater observation room.... I would feel like a voyeur, watching the swimmer’s private time and drawing in their beauty and strength.*”

The buildings and structures in Yasemin Kackar Demirel’s artwork are constructed and deconstructed cities inspired by her travels throughout Turkey, the US and her imagination. For Yasemin, “*Drawings also enables me to reexamine my thought processes and channel my thoughts into creating compositions that expand into a given space and can at times turn into ephemeral works. Thus, drawings facilitate an open-ended exploration of spaces and places.*”

In the artwork of Ferdinanda Florence, she uses industrial sites in her home city of Vallejo (CA) to explore issues of place on a more personal level. The exhibit includes a new series featuring the Vallejo Fire Department building -- one that’s built to be repeatedly set on fire, for practice.

The watercolor worlds of Melinda Hackett are “*poetic inventions of her imagination.*” According to Melinda, “*My paintings create worlds full of images that float, hover, creep, spin, hang, roll or sleep in corners... By virtue of their inability to be fully identified, they remain in the realm of the poetic, a sum of images to form a whole, and the way they relate to each other is meant to be read experientially and not categorically.*”

**What: Pulp Fiction**

**When:** February 25 – April 30, 2016

**Closing Reception: Thursday, April 28 from 6-8 pm**

**Where:** Elisa Contemporary Art, 5622 Mosholu Avenue, Riverdale NY 10471

**Hours:** Thursdays 12pm – 5:00pm; and by appointment (Weekdays, Evenings, Weekends) (closed 3/3 and 3/31)

**Website:** www.ElisaContemporaryArt.com

## About the Artists:

### **Carol Bennett**

Carol Bennett is a native of Los Angeles, who has spent the last 20 years living in Hawaii in Kaua'i. She spends all of her time surrounded by water, and a great deal within it.

Her work is a meditative journey through both the water and through life. She is intrigued by how life continues to flow and change, being both in the moment and timeless. The viewer will experience being in a state "flow" – where the currents of the ocean suspend life and self, and the unexpected floats to the surface.

Carol's work has been featured in many solo and group exhibits throughout California and Hawaii including a 2007 solo show at the First Hawaiian Center at the Contemporary Museum of Art (Honolulu). She has recently completed a commissioned 8' x 48' glass canopy for the Hawaii State Art Museum, Sculpture Garden.

### **Yasemin Kackar Demirel**

Yasemin was born in Istanbul, received her MFA in DeKalb (IL), and currently lives in New York. Her work is a fragmented and reconstructed journey through the places she has lived and traveled, both real and imagined.

According to Yasemin, *"Being a Turkish native residing in the United States, I have been influenced by both the architectural/ physical and the emotional aspects of certain environments and view them as great potentials to narrate stories through my works. To the viewer, the plot of these narratives can be familiar or unknown, boundless or limited, conquered or yet to be discovered. I aim to create a 'chaotic harmony' by maintaining a balance between these contrasting concepts via the language of abstraction. In other words, it is an act of balancing integration and independence that I intend to reflect through my works."* Yasemin has been featured in solo and group exhibitions in the US and Turkey. Her work is also in the Ipek-Ahmet Meray Foundation in Istanbul, Turkey.

### **Ferdinanda Florence**

Ferdinanda Florence was born in Washington, DC, and grew up in Arlington, VA. A second-generation Armenian-American, Ferdinanda has explored in her research the role of place in artistic expression. Her Master's thesis detailed the link between Armenian religious rituals and church architecture. In her artwork, she uses industrial sites in her home city of Vallejo to explore issues of place on a more personal level.

Ferdinanda's exhibitions reflect her varied interests and concerns. Her work has appeared at the Di Rosa Preserve; the University of San Francisco Law School; and as set decoration for a Bay Area Playwrights Festival performance at the Magic Theater, San Francisco. Her drawings were selected for exhibition at the next FATE Biennial Conference at the Savannah College of Art and Design in April, 2013.

### **Melinda Hackett**

Melinda Hackett is a mid-career New York Artist. She received her BA at Hobart William Smith College and MFA at Parsons School of Design. According to Melinda *"My paintings represent both states, the near, the far, the view through a telescope, the view through a microscope, the sheltering sky, the intimate forest. My paintings create worlds full of images that float, hover, creep, spin, hang, roll or sleep in corners. The images come from an internal source. They contain a vital impulse, and are alive as if subjected to breezes, weather and climatic conditions. My paintings represent states of non linear time."* Melinda's work has been exhibited in solo and group shows throughout the US since 1990.

### **Krzysztof Pastuszka**

Kris Pastuszka is a dynamic, emerging artist and graduate of School of Visual Arts. He currently lives in Brooklyn. His work starts with an idea, a "curiosity", a word. He then turns them into definitions, and maps out the process. Through books, old magazines, image searches, journalizing ideas he research topics and his images and compositions begin to take shape. He is part mad scientist, inventor, astronaut and all artist.

According to Kris: *"For me, art is a way of life, an adventure of those moments when something happens, connections are made and everything seems to make sense. My art revolves around the highs and lows of discovery, adventure, and chance. I*

*am inspired by the ridiculous, the whimsical world of invention, nonsense, and complex machines in a playful atmosphere - to create an adventure of the unknown."* Kris has exhibited throughout New York.

### **About Elisa Contemporary Art**

Elisa Contemporary Art represents a portfolio of emerging through mid-career contemporary artists. Our art and artists do not fit into any particular current trend or fashion, but are those exploring and testing the boundaries of various media, techniques, materials and ideas about humanity, nature and our world

Founded in 2007 by Lisa Cooper, Elisa Contemporary Art is dedicated to promoting the appreciation and collection of art as a way to enrich and heal our lives, our communities, and the world. Elisa Contemporary Art has participated in international art fairs in New York, Miami and the Hamptons. We have curated over 15 public art exhibits in the Tri-State area.

We also believe in the power of giving back, and donate a portion of gallery sales to philanthropic organizations that help children and families within underserved communities heal and grow through their experience with art. We currently support Free Arts NYC, and Art Therapy Outreach Center.

Elisa Contemporary Art has been featured in a number of publications including Ocean Home Magazine, Hamptons Cottages & Gardens, New York Spaces and The New York Times and on Artsy. For more information, visit [www.ElisaContemporaryArt.com](http://www.ElisaContemporaryArt.com) or see us on Artsy and Istdibs.

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