

# MATTEAWAN GALLERY

Krista Svalbonas

Dislocation

June 10 – July 3, 2017

Opening reception Saturday, June 10, 6-9 pm

Matteawan Gallery is pleased to present a solo exhibition of recent work by Krista Svalbonas. This is Svalbonas' second solo show at the gallery and includes photo-based wall sculptures and works on paper. A reception for the artist will be held on Saturday, June 10 from 6-9 pm, and the show runs through Monday, July 3.

Krista Svalbonas' work deals with themes of home and dislocation. She is the child of immigrants who arrived in the United States as refugees from Latvia and Lithuania following World War II. After spending many years in displaced-persons camps in post-war Germany, her parents were allowed to emigrate to the United States. She is aware that for many people "home" is contingent, in flux, without permanent definition, and undermined by political agendas beyond their control. Photography plays a key role in her work, partly because photographs were among the few possessions her family was able to take with them when they fled the Russian occupation. Photographs document a home and a country that most refugees, including her parents, thought they would never see again.

Another important theme in Svalbonas' work is the impact of architecture on the psychology of the human environment. In her recent *Motile* series of sculptural photo collages she combines images from places she has lived in surprising juxtapositions: Pennsylvania barns emerge from Chicago skyscrapers, creating an impossible architecture. She writes: "Complicated by this family history, my definition of home constantly oscillates between past and present. "Motile" began with photographs I took in the three locations I have called home in the past eight years: the New York metro area, rural Pennsylvania, and Chicago. Each image is a visual sketch of the genius loci of the landscape at a particular moment in my history... I constructed sculptural planes with foam at various heights and angles thereby creating hybrid structures that reinterpret and reinvent architecture, disrupting space, light, and direction. "Motile" turns an analytical gaze on the architecture of my past and present while offering a personal reflection on the nature of home."

Krista Svalbonas has exhibited national and internationally. She recently completed a site-specific permanent installation at the Vilnius Gediminas Technical University in Lithuania. She has exhibited at the Spartanburg Art Museum in South Carolina; Redline, Space Gallery and Dairy Center of the Arts, Colorado; Kenise Barnes Fine Art, Matteawan Gallery, Opus Projects, The Painting Center, Trestle Gallery, ISE Cultural Foundation, and BWAC, New York; Visual Arts Center of New Jersey, Watchung Art Center and George Segal Gallery, New Jersey; Monterey Peninsula Art Gallery and Wall Gallery, California; and Tubac Center For The Arts, Arizona. Her work is in the permanent collection of the Cesis Art Museum in Latvia. Svalbonas is a recipient of a Bemis Fellowship, and of residencies from Cooper Union, Vermont Studio Center, and the New Arts Program. In 2015 she curated the exhibition de•con•struct at Matteawan Gallery. She is currently an Assistant Professor of photography at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia. She holds a BFA degree in photography and design from Syracuse University and an MFA degree in photography, sculpture, and design from SUNY New Paltz.