

# MATTEAWAN GALLERY

## Zoology

Deborah Davidovits, Scott Daniel Ellison, Theresa Gooby, Jan Harrison,  
Kirsten Kucer, Chantelle Norton, Melissa Schlobohm, Maude White

July 14 - August 19, 2018

Opening reception Saturday, July 14, 6-9 pm

Matteawan Gallery is pleased to present *Zoology*, a group exhibition of paintings, drawings, cut paper works, and prints by Deborah Davidovits, Scott Daniel Ellison, Theresa Gooby, Jan Harrison, Kirsten Kucer, Chantelle Norton, Melissa Schlobohm, and Maude White. The show opens Saturday, July 14 and runs through August 19. There will be a reception for the artists on Saturday, July 14 from 6-9 pm.

The eight artists in *Zoology* feature animals prominently in their work. Animals are one of the oldest inspirations for artists, as evidenced by the first cave paintings thousands of years ago, and they continue to inspire us today. The work in *Zoology* falls into two broad categories: work that captures the likeness of familiar animals we see in our environment, such as birds, cats, and rabbits, and work that includes hybrid or imaginary animals in dreamlike settings.

Deborah Davidovits' small drawings are close studies of creatures we may find in our backyard. They are individual portraits imbued with distinct personalities. Chantelle Norton's chickens are also specific portraits (from her own chicken coop); however, she adds richly patterned backgrounds influenced by her work as a textile designer that refer to notions of home and nostalgia. Maude White's intricate hand-cut paper birds are mounted between two sheets of glass, creating interesting shadows. Her work has the three-dimensional quality of sculpture and reveals the strength and beauty of both the birds and the paper she uses as her medium. Melissa Schlobohm's woodblock prints stem from a fascination with ecology, and she often features animals such as insects, bats, and animals of prey. Her images and installations can be welcoming and menacing, pretty and ugly at the same time. She is interested in the dual nature of animals as well as humans.

Kirsten Kucer's drawings with sumi ink on Nepalese paper depict a dreamlike space where animals, people, and objects interact in strange and surreal ways. A flock of birds surrounds dancing nuns, while the artist's mother stops ironing to peer through a viewfinder, all under a canopy of billowing laundry supported by a large chain. In her *Lazarus Library* series Theresa Gooby creates hybrid animals (such as a cheetah crossed with a rabbit) and transfers them to old books. Gooby suggests that the books were created by a (fictional) 19<sup>th</sup> Century industrialist Cornelius Lazarus, who made them to entertain his children. Scott Daniel Ellison's darkly humorous paintings contain bats, snakes, and mythological creatures such as werewolves or vampires. His spooky subjects are often misunderstood and vulnerable, with human characteristics. Jan Harrison's paintings depict both wild and domesticated animals, such as cats, leopards, giraffes, and birds, as well as imaginary beasts. Her work has a mysterious, dreamlike quality that relates to personal and universal myth and explores the interaction between animal nature and the human psyche. Harrison's statement about animals rings true for all the artists in *Zoology*: "The animal beings are emissaries and guides. Their eyes invite us into their world. They embody an ongoing connection with the life force and the world."

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Deborah Davidovits has exhibited nationally and internationally at venues such as MoMA PS1, Long Island City, NY; the Drawing Center, New York, NY; Sculpture Center, Long Island City, NY; Weatherspoon Art Museum, Greensboro, NC; Kunst-Werke, Berlin, Germany; James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA; Museo Universitario Del Chopo, Mexico City, Mexico; Wave Hill, Bronx, NY; Provincetown Arts Association, Provincetown, MA; and at Dogbite International Festival of Film Art, Balchik, Bulgaria. Her work has been featured in numerous publications including *The New Yorker*, *The Boston Globe*, *Art New England*, and *Time Out New York*. Davidovits received a BFA from the Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA and an MFA from Tyler School of Art, Philadelphia, PA. She lives in Beacon, NY and is also a beekeeper.

Scott Daniel Ellison's paintings were featured in solo exhibitions at Matteawan Gallery in 2014 and 2016; ClampArt, New York, NY; and Conduit Gallery, Dallas, TX. His work has been included in group exhibitions at the University of Maine Museum of Art, Bangor, ME; the Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL; Monya Rowe Gallery, NY, NY; Galleria Traghetto, Venice, Italy; and Carl Berg Projects, West Hollywood, CA. Ellison is a 2018 recipient of a Pollock Krasner Foundation grant, and in 2012 was awarded a Fellowship in Painting from the New York Foundation for the Arts. His first monograph *Iowa, Ohio*, was published by Schilt Books in 2014, and a second book, *Witch Hazel*, was published in 2016 by ClampArt. Ellison received a BFA and an MFA from SUNY Purchase, Purchase, NY.

Theresa Gooby exhibits nationally, with a solo exhibition opening in December 2018 at the Greenville Center for Creative Arts in Greenville, SC. In 2017 she participated in *fRact/fiction*, curated by Artspace in New Haven, CT. Her work has been included in group exhibitions in galleries and museums, including the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art, New Paltz, NY; Woskob Family Gallery, State College, PA; Metro Pictures, NYC; Amos Eno Gallery, Brooklyn, NY; Indianapolis Museum of Contemporary Art, Indianapolis, IN; Mad Dooley Gallery, Beacon, NY; Ann Street Gallery, Newburgh, NY; and Gallery 16 and Root Division in San Francisco, CA. Gooby was a Green Foundation Artist-in-Residence in Marfa, TX, and has attended residencies at The Vermont Studio Center and SPEOS in Paris, France. She received a BFA from the University of New Mexico and an MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute. She currently lives in Beacon, NY.

Jan Harrison's work has been included in recent solo exhibitions at Bright Hill Word & Image Gallery, Treadwell, NY; Piermont-Straus Gallery, Piermont, NY; and Drew University, Madison, NJ. She has participated in group exhibitions throughout the United States and internationally, including *What's Next?* At Unison Art Center, New Paltz, NY opening in July 2018; Cross Contemporary Art, Saugerties, NY; Sideshow Gallery, Brooklyn, NY; Galeria La Eskalera, Merida, Mexico; Athens Cultural Center, Athens, NY; Williamsburg Art & Historical Center, Brooklyn, NY; Kleinert/James Art Center, Woodstock, NY; Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art, New Paltz, NY. In 1999 Harrison's work was included in *Animal.Anima.Animus* at MoMA PS1 curated by Marketta Seppälä and Linda Weintraub. In 2018 she was featured in the article *Life or Death*, by Brainard Carey, Praxis Center for Aesthetics, Yale University. A monograph *Arcana Mundi: Selected Works 1979 – 2000*, was published by Barrytown/Station Hill Press, in 2010. Harrison's paintings and sculptures are in numerous private collections. She received an MA from San Jose State University, San Jose, CA, and a BFA from the University of Georgia, Athens, GA. She lives in the Hudson Valley.

Kirsten Kucer has exhibited in the United States and Mexico, with solo shows at Theo Ganz Studio, Beacon, NY; Garrison Art Center, Garrison, NY; and at Alternativa Once, Monterrey, Mexico. Her work has been included in group exhibitions at Hudson Beach Glass, Mad Dooley Gallery, Howland Cultural Center, Beacon, NY; Islip Art Museum, East Islip, NY; Woodstock Artists Association and Museum, Woodstock, NY; Lexington Art League, Lexington, KY;

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Saunders Farm Project, Garrison, NY; Edge Gallery, Denver, CO; Centro de las Artes de Monterrey, Monterrey, Mexico; and The Duluth Art Institute, Duluth, MN. Kucer has received grants from Artists' Fellowship Inc., Max's Kansas City Project, the Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation, and the Brooklyn Arts Council. She currently lives in Beacon, NY.

Chantelle Norton's work has been featured in two solo exhibitions at Theo Ganz Studio in Beacon, NY (2017 and 2013). She has participated in group exhibitions at The Woodstock Artists Association and Museum (WAAM), Woodstock, NY; Garrison Art Center, Garrison, NY; Catalyst Gallery and Theo Ganz Studio, Beacon, NY; Ann Street Gallery, Newburgh, NY; Knaus Gallery, Highland, NY; The National Arts Club, New York, NY; and Barrett Art Center, Poughkeepsie, NY. She studied fine art at a variety of colleges, including Rhode Island School of design, National College of Art and Design Dublin, and The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where she received a BFA. She also has a degree in Fashion Design from Parsons The New School for Design and has worked in the fashion industry focusing on textile, print, and surface design. Norton was born in Dublin, Ireland and spent her childhood split between the United States and Ireland. She currently resides in the town of Kent, NY with her partner, pet chickens, and a cat.

Melissa Schlobohm's work has been the subject of solo exhibitions at Beacon Artists Union, Beacon, NY; Garrison Art Center, Garrison, NY, and Beacon Art Shorewave Gallery, Stone Harbor, NJ. She has participated in group exhibitions at The Shed Gallery, Howland Cultural Center, Catalyst Gallery, Hudson Beach Glass Gallery and Beacon Artist Union, Beacon, NY; Arts Society of Kingston, Kingston, NY; Pop Up Gallery, NYC; Case Art Gallery, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY; and the Agricultural Stewardship Association, Cambridge, NY. Schlobohm received a BS in studio art from Skidmore College and lives in Beacon, NY.

Maude White's work has been featured in solo exhibitions at Walnut Hill Fine Arts, Hudson, NY; Walker Contemporary, Waitsfield, VT; Buffalo Arts Studio, Buffalo, NY; and Peter & Mary Vogt Gallery, Buffalo, NY. She is included in *Cut Up/Cut Out* currently touring the United States through 2020, as well as in group exhibitions at the Burchfield Penney Art Center, Buffalo, NY; Nahcotta Gallery, Portsmouth, NH; Walnut Hill Gallery, Hudson, NY; Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, MA; Hallwalls, Buffalo, NY; and Walker Contemporary, Waitsfield, VT. Her shadow puppet designs appear in *The Happy Film* documentary by the graphic designer and typographer Stefan Sagmeister. She is the author of *Brave Birds Inspiration on the Wing* (Abrams 2018) and the illustrator of *Leading with Love: Inspiration for Spiritual Activists* (Parallax Press 2018). Her work has been featured in *Orion Magazine*, *Berkshire Magazine*, *The Artist Magazine*, *Art House Press*, and *Hi Fructose Magazine*, among others. She currently lives in Hudson, NY.

For additional information please contact Karlyn Benson at [info@matteawan.com](mailto:info@matteawan.com).