

University Art Museum

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

June 9, 2014

Mary Reid Kelley Exhibition Opens at University Art Museum On view July 10 through October 12, 2014

Opening Reception & *FENCE* Magazine Launch

FENCE Summer 2014 featuring cover art and writing by Mary Reid Kelley
July 10, 2014, 5 – 7 PM

Artist's Gallery Talk: October 2014, TBD

Saturday Exhibition Tours: July 12, August 9, September 13, October 11, 1 PM

Homecoming Weekend Tours: Saturday, October 11: 11 AM and 1 PM

Summer Hours: Tuesday – Saturday: 11 AM – 4 PM

August 26 – October 12: Tuesday: 10 AM – 8 PM; Wednesday – Friday: 10 AM – 5 PM; Saturday: 12 – 4 PM

Expanded Homecoming Weekend Hours: Saturday, October 11, 11 AM – 4 PM
and Sunday, October 12, 12 – 4 PM

All events are free and open to the public.



Priapus Agonistes, 2013
Video still

ALBANY, NY--- The University Art Museum is pleased to announce the upcoming exhibition ***Mary Reid Kelley: Working Objects and Videos***. The exhibition opens on Thursday, July 10, 2014, with a public opening reception to be held on that day from 5 – 7 pm.

Organized by the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art at SUNY New Paltz and curated by Daniel Belasco, the Dorsky Museum's curator of exhibitions and programs, this is the first museum exhibition

devoted to the finely crafted and researched costumes, objects, furniture, and drawings that Mary Reid Kelley creates for her acclaimed videos. These working objects reveal the artist as an exemplar of the contemporary impulse to work across and synthesize art media.

Mary Reid Kelley (b. 1979) recently recognized as a Guggenheim fellow, winner of the Rome Prize, and subject of PBS's series *Art21*, is widely lauded by critics and curators. Her visually rich and intellectually stimulating videos appeal to diverse audiences interested in cutting-edge contemporary art, as well as world history and literature. Her videos, set in nineteenth century Paris, the Western

- more-

Mary Reid Kelley exhibition at University Art Museum



The Syphilis of Sisyphus, 2011
Video still



Marat's Bath, installation view,
Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art, 2014
Mixed media

Front during World War I, and the Crete of classical myth, have been presented at museums internationally, including the Tate Modern, ICA Boston, and SITE Santa Fe. For the first time, the artist is presenting the actual objects and elements of her videos, which mix the hyper-real and the fake in unique ways.

Mary Reid Kelley: Working

Objects and Videos presents Reid Kelley's three recent videos—*You Make Me Iliad* (2010), *The Syphilis of Sisyphus* (2011), and *Priapus Agonistes* (2013)—and also reveals the inventive process by which she has fused live performance, drawing, sculpture, costume design, and digital media. In addition to the three videos, the exhibition includes found objects and finely crafted materials, all of which have been enhanced by the artist. These objects include 25 costumes, four furniture ensembles, eight masks, six hats, two wigs,

three pairs of shoes, and nearly 100 other props including jewelry, bottles, mirrors, sunglasses, a globe, and a volleyball. Installed in full-scale, theatrical and worktable settings, these elements will fully immerse the viewer in the artist's unique vision. Curator Daniel Belasco states, "By creating or manipulating all aspects of scenery, language, and performance, Reid Kelley is simultaneously stage director, designer, and performer in a theater of her own making."

Drawings and paintings on paper are major components of Reid Kelley's videos, and over 30 such works will be in the exhibition. The drawings are used as visual elements in the videos, appearing as signs, as backgrounds and scenery, and as textures and patterns. In addition, "character drawings" or portraits of the personages from her videos will be included. These drawings are the culmination of her lengthy working process, from research to writing to costume and prop design to performance, digital sets, and editing. "They close the conceptual loop," says Reid Kelley.

Mary Reid Kelley exhibition at University Art Museum



Volleyball (Ba'al), 2013
Volleyball and acrylic paint



Priapus Agonistes, 2013
Video still

An illustrated catalogue, co-published by the Samuel Dorsky Museum and University Art Museum, will include an essay by exhibition curator Daniel Belasco and an interview with Mary Reid Kelley and Patrick Kelley by UAM curator Corinna Ripps Schaming. The exhibition catalogue is available at the University Art Museum and will be distributed by the State University of New York Press.

Mary Reid Kelley (b. 1979) has exhibited videos in solo shows at Pilar Corrias Gallery, London (2014), the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston (2013), Art House Austin (2013), Fredericks & Freiser Gallery, New York (2011 and 2009), Suzanne Vielmetter Projects, Los Angeles (2013 and 2010), and Salina Art Center, Salina, Kansas (2012). Group shows include Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Boston; the Columbia University LeRoy Neiman Gallery, New York; SITE Santa Fe's Eighth International Biennial; the Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia; and Center for Art and Media, Karlsruhe, Germany. She was featured in the sixth season of PBS' series *Art21*, received a Guggenheim Fellowship (2014) and is recipient of a Rome Prize (2011-12). Her work has been praised in the *New York Times*, *ArtForum*, *Frieze*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *Art in America*. She holds an MFA from Yale University School of Art and a BA from St. Olaf's College. She lives and works in Olivebridge, NY.

The exhibition is organized by the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art, State University of New York at New Paltz and curated by Daniel Belasco. Funding for the University Art Museum presentation is provided by UAlbany's Office of the President and Office of the Provost, The University at Albany Foundation, University Auxiliary Services, and the Ellsworth Kelly Foundation. For further information on exhibitions and programs, call (518) 442-4035 or visit our website at www.albany.edu/museum.

#####

Media contact: Naomi Lewis, Exhibition & Outreach Coordinator, nlewis@albany.edu