



OREGON ARTS
COMMISSION

For Immediate Release

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**Summer Ventis’s “Emigrant Lake[s]”
to be exhibited in the Governor’s Office Aug. 1 – Sept. 28**

Salem, Oregon – Medford-based artist Summer Ventis will exhibit “Emigrant Lake[s]” in the Governor’s Office of the Capitol Building in Salem from Aug. 1 to Sept. 28.

According to the artist, the body of work “Emigrant Lake[s]” uses the printed surface to examine the interplay of external and internal landscapes and the tenuous nature of our relationship to our surroundings through drought’s effects on the Western landscape and its population. “In observing our surroundings, we project ourselves onto and into the landscape,” said Ventis, “while the observed landscape also dictates our internal reception of it. The landscape is inside us as much as we are inside it.”

Ventis received a bachelor of art degree from Grinnell College and a master of fine arts in printmaking from the University of Colorado, Boulder. She has exhibited nationally and internationally, at venues including Disjecta (Portland); the Schneider Museum of Art (Ashland); Flatbed Press (Austin, Texas); and the Liu Haisu Art Museum (Shanghai, China). Her works can be found in numerous collections such as the Pacific Northwest College of Art (Portland); the Denver Art Museum; and Proyecto ‘ace in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Previously visiting faculty at Southern Oregon University, Ventis is currently assistant professor at California State University, Sacramento.

The Art in the Governor’s Office Program honors selected artists in Oregon with exhibitions in the reception area of the Governor’s Office in the State Capitol. Artists are nominated by a statewide committee of arts professionals who consider artists representing the breadth and diversity of artistic practice across Oregon, and are then selected by the Arts Commission with the participation of the Governor’s Office. Only professional, living Oregon artists are considered and an exhibit in the Governor’s office is considered a “once in a lifetime” honor. Artists whose work has previously been shown in the Governor’s office include Henk Pander, Michele Russo, Manuel Izquierdo, James Lavadour, Margot Thompson, Gordon Gilkey and Yuji Hiratsuka.

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The Oregon Arts Commission provides leadership, funding and arts programs through its grants, special initiatives and services. Nine commissioners, appointed by the Governor, determine arts needs and establish policies for public support of the arts. The Arts Commission became part of Business Oregon (formerly Oregon Economic and Community Development Department) in 1993, in recognition of the expanding role the arts play in the broader social, economic and educational arenas of Oregon communities. In 2003, the Oregon legislature moved the operations of the Oregon Cultural Trust to the Arts Commission, streamlining operations and making use of the Commission's expertise in grantmaking, arts and cultural information and community cultural development.

The Arts Commission is supported with general funds appropriated by the Oregon legislature and with federal funds from the National Endowment for the Arts as well as funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust. More information about the Oregon Arts Commission is available online at: www.oregonartscommission.org