



OREGON ARTS
COMMISSION

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Pat Boas' "Cipher" to be exhibited in the Governor's Office Nov. 22-Jan. 12

Salem, Oregon – Portland artist Pat Boas will exhibit "Cipher" in the Governor's Office at the Capitol Building in Salem from Nov. 22 to Jan. 12.

Boas uses the form, movement and sound-sense of words as maps for abstraction. Her paintings and works on paper distort the code of written language to the point where the viewer might glimpse, but not grasp, an implied meaning. Beginning with common stencil letters or the shapes between letterforms, the pieces develop into characters that are not easily deciphered, like logos too complicated to achieve the usual aim of instant recognition. The artist explains, "I want to confuse the acts of reading and looking, writing and drawing, jostling them with the noise of color and form."

Boas' work has been shown at the Portland Art Museum, PDX Contemporary and Elizabeth Leach Gallery in Portland; the Art Gym at Marylhurst University; the Hallie Ford Museum in Salem; the Center for Contemporary Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico; the Boise Art Museum; the Salt Lake Art Center; the Nicolaysen Museum in Casper, Wyoming; the Center on Contemporary Art in Seattle and the Cleveland Museum of Art. Her work was recently featured in the 2016 Portland Biennial. She is the recipient of numerous honors, fellowships, grants and residencies, including from the Bonnie Bronson Fund, Caldera Arts Foundation, the Ford Family Foundation, Harold and Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation, Jentel Foundation, Oregon College of Arts and Craft, Pollock-Krasner Foundation, Portland Art Museum and Oregon's Regional Arts and Culture Council. Reviews of Boas' work have appeared in *Art in America* and *Art Papers* and she has written articles and exhibition reviews for *Art Papers*, *artUS* and *Artweek*. Represented by Elizabeth Leach Gallery in Portland, Boas is an associate professor and director of the School of Art + Design at Portland State University.

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 grant making, 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