

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Country Between Us
November 15 - December 20, 2013
Curated by Ariel Freiberg



Opening Reception: Friday, November 15, 6-8pm
Panel Discussion: Wednesday, November 20, 7-8:30pm



"No place for Nitro V." Zsuzsanna Szegedi, 10x14x1.5 inches, manually altered photograph, 2013

The Country Between Us curated by Ariel Freiberg is an exhibition of four Boston area artists: **Resa Blatman, Ariel Freiberg, Susan Still Scott and Zsuzsanna Varga Szegedi**. Each artist fragments and deconstructs the boundaries of painting. Painting is a kind of communication between maker and audience based on certain, canonical expectations. *The Country Between Us* disrupts this relationship and subverts the history of painting as a metaphor for the fleeting, disembodied, inherently political nature of communication.

The Country Between Us is both a void and a presence. A stop motion video projects the dissolution of a surreal, unspecified landscape onto a gallery wall. The wall and the image dissolve, creating an ephemeral force around which all of the sculptural, fragmented, buried and erased paintings circulate.

The exhibition argues that the breakdown of a painting as universal language can have political ramifications. *The Country Between Us* takes its title from Caroline Forché's book of poems of the same name, which recounts her experiences working in El Salvador in the 1970s during the civil war. The exhibition is part of a

making and language to transform personal expression into political action.

Resa Blatman's paintings made from laser cut panels comment on the destruction of the natural world and explore the impact of climate change. She writes that she finds the contradictions between the beautiful and grotesque qualities of nature “deeply complex and intriguing, especially in relation to human behavior.” Her work is both delicate and tough. The intricate laser-cut designs seem to vibrate.

Ariel Freiberg makes oil paintings based on collages of images culled from the mass media. The finished pieces create tension between sexuality in the external world and internal human narratives. One of these pieces will be buried under a shallow bed of soil to mimic an archeological dig.

Susan Still Scott rips, cuts, sews, glues, wraps and paints parts of recycled canvases and stretcher bars creating pieces that are both sculptures and paintings. A completed work is strong and demonstrative, though in reality, it evolved out of doubt and countless practical resolutions.

Zsuzsanna Varga Szegedi explores ideas of absence and presence through her photo-erasing pieces. Her images are remnants of the physical process – She dissolves the pigment of the printed image to manually alter, erase and modify, which she then uses as paint breaking out from the picture frame onto the gallery wall.

EXHIBITION-RELATED PROGRAM – PANEL DISCUSSION

The Way is Made by Walking: Forging New Paths Through Poetry and the Visual Arts.

Wednesday, November 20, 7-8:30pm, free and open to the public

Panelists **Noit Banai**, PhD, Professor of Art History, School of the Museum of Fine Arts, **Lynne Cooney**, Exhibitions Director, Boston University's School of Visual Arts and **Anna Deeny**, PhD, Professor of Latin American Literature, Harvard University will discuss the literary and art historical questions that the exhibition poses. The panel will analyze the exhibition's personal, social and political implications.

Gallery Hours: Mon - Fri, 9am - 5pm; Sat 1 - 5pm. The Main Gallery is wheelchair accessible.

Please call [\(617\) 964-3424](tel:6179643424) for more information.

Address: 61 Washington Park, Newtonville, Massachusetts 02460

The **New Art Center** is a non-profit corporation in Newton. It provides opportunities for people to connect with their creativity, community and history through artistic experience. The Center offers classes and educational experiences for all ages about enjoying, making, curating and understanding visual art. New Art Center programs are made possible, in part, by generous support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Transportation: The nearest T stop to the New Art Center is Newton Highlands on the Green Line (D/Riverside), then take the #59 North bus on Walnut Street, exit at CVS. Call the MBTA at [\(617\) 722-3200](tel:6177223200) for schedules + fare information. The NAC is also accessible from the Mass. Pike, Route 128, or the Newtonville stop on the commuter rail (Framingham line).

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