

**SOUTHAMPTON ARTS CENTER BEGINS ITS 2017 EXHIBITION LINE-UP WITH *A SENSE OF PLACE*,
FEATURING ARTISTS RESPONDING TO THEIR ENVIRONMENT**



Philippe Cheng "Untitled", 2002; Bastienne Schmidt "Threads and Lines", 2016; Christopher French "As the Land and the Air Is", 2007.

SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y. 1/31/17 --- Southampton Arts Center, located at 25 Jobs Lane in the heart of Southampton Village, announces the first exhibition of 2017. ***A SENSE OF PLACE***, organized by Bastienne Schmidt, will open on Friday, February 24, with a reception for the public on **Saturday, February 25 from 5 to 7 pm**. With a commitment to now offer programs and exhibitions year-round, this additional Spring show has been to the 2017 line-up, which previously began in early May.

"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes."
- Marcel Proust

A place can be interpreted in many ways. Traditionally, geography and the natural environment play a leading role in the interpretation. This exhibition is envisioned as a dialogue among artists reflecting their own concept of "a sense of place" in different ways, might it be in a physical manner or as a conceptual representation of what an environment can be.

Artists leave marks to define their spaces physically and emotionally. On the eastern tip of Long Island we are surrounded by a unique formation of geology and geography, and by a particular sense of natural beauty and complexity of man-made markings, all of which invites creatively diverse approaches to the idea of place and one's own identity.

“I have been interested for many years, as an artist, traveler, and cultural observer, to understand how we shape our own sense of place and how it shapes us.” says exhibition organizer Bastienne Schmidt. “We as artists speak in a language of images, colors, and shapes, responding to concerns and impressions, might they be cultural, social, environmental, emotional, or political. What brings us all together as a human species is to have the safety of a sense of place.”

“We are excited to begin the new year with this visually stunning and environmentally mindful exhibition. With a new focus on sustainability, we feel this is the perfect representation of what is sure to be an incredible year of programs and exhibitions at Southampton Arts Center.” says Director of Programs, Amy Kirwin.

A SENSE OF PLACE includes Philippe Cheng, Louise Eastman with Janis Stemmermann, Christopher French, Saskia Friedrich, Mary Heilmann, Toni Ross, Bastienne Schmidt, Michelle Stuart, Edwina von Gal and the Perfect Earth Project, and Almond Zigmund.

On View: February 24 through April 9, 2017

Public Opening Reception: Saturday, February 25 from 5 to 7 pm

**Refreshments provided by Union Cantina*

Gallery Hours:

Thursday to Sunday | Noon to 6 pm

Related Programs:

Screening of EVA HESSE Documentary

Friday, February 24 | 7 pm | \$10

**Edwina von Gal and Perfect Earth Project Honor PRFCT Partners
plus Bee House Building Workshop for Kids**

Sunday, March 19 | 2 pm | FREE

Artist Gallery Tour and Talk

Sunday, March 26 | 3 pm | FREE

Artist bios attached. Exhibition photos available on request.

#ASenseOfPlaceAtSAC

About Southampton Arts Center

Southampton Arts Center is a not-for-profit located at 25 Jobs Lane, in the heart of Southampton Village. Our mission is to provide the highest quality programming to our entire community through partnerships with a diverse slate of world-class artists, performers, educators and cultural institutions. As stewards of one of the most beloved buildings and grounds on the East End, we serve as a hub to strengthen arts and culture in Southampton Village for this and future generations. For additional information, please visit <http://southamptonartscenter.org/>.

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