

ARTS & CULTURE

Installation "Midnight Mass" by Amie Potsic at The Delaware Contemporary

Exhibition: January 24 - April 25, 2020 • Opening Reception: February 7

The Delaware Contemporary's design integration program continues to bring an exhilarating display of visual aesthetics and offers regional artists the opportunity to explore the range of possibilities for aerial installations. Erica Loustau, Adjunct Deputy for Design Integration, invited Amie Potsic to display a silk installation for its 2020 season. Potsic will exhibit her site-specific, large-scale installation "Midnight Mass" from **January 24 through April 25, 2020** with an Opening Reception on Friday, **February 7** from 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. during the Art Loop Wilmington. Museum hours are Tuesday and Sunday 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Wednesday 12 p.m. - 7 p.m., and Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Closed Mondays.

Working with the expansive industrial architecture of The Delaware Contemporary, Potsic strives to punctuate the height, scale, and proportion of the interior space. With over 250 linear feet of silk, Potsic has designed a monumental site-specific installation involving panels suspended on wires in the atrium plenum. The semi-translucent silk with photographic imagery of silhouetted tree branches weave and dance throughout the space in sweeping, graceful, abstract lines. By grafting the panels into the space and extending them from the entrance at a lower level and upward toward the clerestory windows, Potsic's work not only enhances the museum's architecture, but also affirms how art is intrinsically related to the existential human experience as viewers gaze at the billowing, twilight forest canopy overhead.

Potsic's work investigates the idea of woodland reveries surrounded by evocations of deciduous trees in winter, as though the landscape itself has been pulled from the earth and the nave at Midnight Mass replanted in the lobby. Like medieval basilicas that were designed to confer a cosmological concept of the dome of heaven, Potsic festoons her silk in single point perspective to conjure the grand processions during Midnight Mass. The sheer immediacy of the work evokes a sense of triumph and joy; the vast array of willowy draping in cobalt blue creates the illusion of a dome of heaven thus serving as a metaphor for celestial realms. Further, the dramatic sweeping arms symbolize a welcoming gesture for the viewer. As such, Potsic strives to awaken and nourish the divine mysteries of liturgical space. In its presence, her work challenges viewer's notion of a forest sanctuary as an invitation to contemplate the immensity and sublimity of nature and their place in it.

As an observer of the natural world, Potsic's composition of undulating elliptical arches rests within a hemispherical stage, which point to a global call for action. Her work is not only breathtakingly beautiful and enchanting but underscores the urgency of climate change



and the need for environmental protections. By creating both a visceral and cerebral connection to trees and the natural world, Potsic's panoply of silk hold a double entendre: they offer a metaphorical protective covering, while drawing attention to universal deforestation and the loss of the earth's essential protective layer.

Amie Potsic received her MFA in photography from the San Francisco Art Institute and her BA in Photojournalism and English Literature from Indiana University graduating with Distinguished Honors and a member of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. She has held faculty appointments at University of California, Berkeley, Ohlone College, and San Francisco Art Institute; and, has been a guest lecturer at The University

Amie Potsic will exhibit her site-specific, large-scale installation "Midnight Mass" from January 24 through April 25, 2020 with an opening reception on Friday, February 7 from 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. during the Wilmington Art Loop. Amie Potsic's "Midnight Mass (installation detail #7)," Archival pigment print on silk, 2019, © Amie Potsic 2019.

of the Arts, Ursinus College, and The International Center of Photography. Potsic is currently the CEO and Principal Curator of Amie Potsic Art Advisory, LLC, and Chair of the Art in City Hall Artistic Advisory Board in the Office of Arts and Culture of the City of Philadelphia. Her work has been exhibited locally, nationally, and internationally.

The Delaware Contemporary is a non-collecting art museum that infuses contemporary art and creativity into our community through compelling exhibitions, dynamic educational experiences, and access to the artistic process. Founded in 1979, The Delaware Contemporary presents exhibitions of regionally, nationally, and internationally recognized artists that explore topical issues in contemporary art and society.

During the first Friday of each month, the free, self-guided Wilmington Art Loop brings together art lovers and the community to the ever-evolving downtown and greater Wilmington areas. Art galleries, studios, museums, and alternative art spaces offer an opportunity to meet featured artists while enjoying refreshments and periodic entertainment.

The Delaware Contemporary is located at 200 South Madison Street, Wilmington, DE 19801. For information, visit <https://www.decontemporary.org/> or call 301-656-6466. Visit Amie Potsic's site at www.amiepotsicartadvisory.com.

Wood-Fired Ceramic Projects on Display and in Development at the Community Arts Center



"The Art of Wood-Fired Ceramics," an invitational international exhibition, curated by Potters Guild members Brett Thomas and Mark

A Peter Callas wood-fired stoneware sculpture titled "Avanti" is just one of the pieces on view at "The Art of Wood-Fired Ceramics" exhibition in the Duke Gallery at Community Arts Center, in Wallingford, PA, which opens with a reception on Saturday, February 1 at 5 p.m.

Tyson, featuring work by 40 artists from Japan, France, New Zealand, Indonesia, Denmark, and the United States and featuring the work of renowned artist Peter Callas, opens in the Duke Gallery at Community Arts Center, 414 Plush Mill Road, Walling-

ford, PA, on Saturday, **February 1, 2020**, beginning at 10 a.m. An opening reception, featuring live music by Melange Jazz Quartet, wine, and refreshments, will take place from 5 - 8 p.m. The exhibition and reception are free and open to both the public and art collectors. The work in the exhibition showcases the uniqueness, power, and breadth of the wood-firing technique with styles ranging from wabi-sabi to expressionism.

The show is anchored by a collection of large expressionist ceramic sculptures by Peter Callas who is celebrating his 50th year as a ceramic artist. After traveling to Japan in 1973 to study ceramics, Peter built the first Anagama (wood-fired) kiln in the United States in 1976. Over the past 50 years, he has exhibited on five continents and received numerous awards and grants including the Pollack/Krasner Foundation Grant in 2018. His work is included in the collections of over 30 museums worldwide, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Sculptural works by many other artists are also included in the exhibition.

Additionally, the exhibition includes a very special collection of over 150 Tea Bowls from around the world. This collection explores the significant aesthetic potential of contemporary tea bowls made for or inspired by, Japanese tea ceremony. This collection is an expansive survey of the influences and cross-cultural pollination that has produced interesting and beautiful bowls that transcend their intended utility and can be viewed as works of art.

Community Arts Center Executive Director Paul Downie said, "We're thrilled to present this exhibition which features work by award-winning artist Peter Callas and that embodies the wood-fired aesthetic as we officially announce the next major expansion of the CAC ceramics program and facility. The new project centers on the construction of a wood-fired 'train' kiln but also includes an expansion of the ceramics studio parking lot and upgrading of the electrical service in the studio. The kiln will be the newest addition to the CAC's comprehensive ceramics facility, designed to maximize exposure to a wide variety of firing techniques for the ceramics community at the CAC and throughout the region. We hope to have the kiln completed this summer so stay tuned!"

"The Art of Wood-Fired Ceramics" exhibition runs **through March 6**. Gallery hours are Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 7:30 p.m., Friday - 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. and Saturday - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For a complete list of participating artists, info or driving directions, contact Community Arts Center at 610-566-1713, online at <https://communityartscenter.org> or follow on Facebook.

"A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE" AT THE WALNUT

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Havard's Walnut directorial credits include *The Humans*, *God of Carnage*, *ART*, *Someone to Watch Over Me*, *Skylight*, and *Driving Miss Daisy*. He has spent his life in theatre as an actor, stage manager, director, managing director and producer. Recognized as one of America's leading theatre producers, he has proudly served America's Oldest Theatre for over 35 years. Under his leadership, the Walnut became a not-for-profit, self-producing theatre and has gained international recognition as one of America's premier regional theatres.

Making their Walnut Street Theatre debuts will be Audrey Ward and Tyler Ivey. Ward plays the show's sole American character, Miss Hester Worsley and is a sophomore at Temple University, earning her B.A. in Theater Studies. She was most recently seen on stage in the Temple Theater production of *An Enemy of the People*. Tyler Ivey plays the dual roles of the butler, Farquhar, and the footman, Francis. Ivey is a graduate of Temple University's Musical Theatre program and has been seen performing for the Penobscot Theatre Company, 11th Hour Theatre Co., and the national tour of *Mad Libs Live!*

Scenic Designer Roman Tatarowicz returns to the Walnut to bring the lavish Victorian estate of Lady Hunstanton to the Mainstage. Creating the gorgeous gowns and suits of England's late 19th century upper-class is Costume Designer and Walnut Costume Shop Manager Mary Folino. They will be joined by Lighting Designer Shon Causer and eight-time Barrymore Award winning Sound Designer Christopher Colucci.

"A Woman of No Importance" runs **through March 1, 2020**. There will be a talkback after the 2 p.m. performance on **January 26**, and after the 7 p.m. performance on **February 9**.

For tickets and information, call 215-574-3550 or 800-982-2787. Tickets are also available online 24/7 by visiting www.WalnutStreetTheatre.org or Ticketmaster.



Alicia Roper and Brandon O'Rourke perform in "A Woman of No Importance" at the Walnut Street Theatre through March 1. Photo/Mark Garvin

Play Pinochle, Mah Jongg, and Scrabble

New Horizons Senior Center offers "Game Day" to provide relaxing and congenial game playing for senior adults. The focus is on learning, enjoying games, and meeting new friends. Playing Pinochle, Mah Jongg, Scrabble, and Poker are fun ways to increase intellectual stimulation, and are good for brain building. In January, Game Day is scheduled on Wednesdays, **January 22 and 29** at 12:30 p.m. (**In February, Game Day will return to Fridays at 12:30.**) Please Note: Call in advance to confirm if there are enough players for that day! Stop by the Center at 100 Conway Avenue, 2nd floor, Narberth to sign-up, or call 610-664-2366.