

PLAINS ART MUSEUM

Plains Art Museum to Exhibit Regional and International Artists Together in *Fueling Modernity: A Cross-National Collaboration*

Press Release

For Immediate Release (September 2019)

Fargo, N.D. Plains Art Museum is pleased to announce the substantial and unique exhibition, *Fueling Modernity*, featuring the work of American photographer Meghan Kirkwood and South African photographer Jeannette Unite. The exhibition will be on display from September 19, 2019 – January 5, 2020 in the Starion Gallery located in the Museum's Katherine Kilbourne Burgum Center for Creativity.

Fueling Modernity presents a comparative examination of industrial landscapes through Kirkwood's documentary photographs and Unite's mixed media artworks. Both exhibiting artists have resided in regions that have been reshaped in response to natural resource extraction—in Western Cape, South Africa and in North Dakota. Rather than advance a specific political message, images from the artists aim to interrogate the way in which energy production has introduced new forms into the landscape and transformed rural communities. Posed as a conversation, the exhibition identifies parallels and departures between the two regions and articulates a visual vocabulary of industrial impacts.



Meghan Kirkwood, *Orange lines* (Grid of 20 images), detail, Archival pigment print, 12 x 16 in.

The exhibition will also feature a cross-national, and free, artist talk between the artists on Thursday November 7 at 6:00 pm. In addition, Kirkwood will lead a two-session drone photography class on Saturday November 9 from 9:00 am – 12:30 pm and 1:30 – 5:00 pm respectively. Workshop cost is \$175 general public or \$140 for members per session.

Jeannette Unite (b. 1964) earned an MFA from Michaelis School of Art in Cape Town and has exhibited her work throughout Africa, Europe, and North America. Throughout her career, Unite has collaborated with earth scientists and other researchers, such as the Department of Earth Sciences, Oxford University and Oxford University Museum, and has exhibited work from these collaborations through the United Nations. Unite currently resides in Cape Town, South Africa.

Meghan Kirkwood (b. 1981) earned a BFA from Rhode Island School of Design in Photography before completing her MFA in Studio Art at Tulane University and PhD at the University of Florida. She has received numerous fellowships, including the National Parks Service, the Vermont Studio Center, and the Lakeside Lab (Iowa). Kirkwood's photography has been exhibited throughout the United States, Europe, and South Africa. Kirkwood is a native New Englander, and currently lives in St. Louis, Missouri.

Plains Art Museum is the largest art museum in the Dakotas and Western Minnesota and is general admission free thanks to strong and growing support from over 800 households and businesses. The Museum manages a permanent collection of over 4,000 objects, organizes and presents dozens of annual exhibitions, facilitates public art projects, and leads over 200 educational programs and experiences for all ages each year. The Museum, and its Katherine Kilbourne Burgum Center for Creativity, is located at 704 First Avenue North in downtown Fargo. For more information about visiting or supporting your art museum, visit www.plainsart.org.

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