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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Art Center Summer Exhibitions Open on June 1

Summit, NJ (May 15, 2018)—Friday, June 1, the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey will open its two summer exhibitions with a reception from 6:30–8:30 PM. The two shows, “*Oh, what a world! What a world!*” and *Containment*, will be on view throughout the summer and will close on Sunday, September 9, 2018.

“Oh, what a world! What a world!” are the dying words spoken by the Wicked Witch of the West as she melts away in the film, *The Wizard of Oz*. Despite her status as a villain, there is pathos and longing in those final words. The melting witch is an apt metaphor for the loss of control many people felt in the wake of the contentious 2016 United States presidential election. Since then, American society has become increasingly polarized, with a heightened state of anxiety about the future of the country and the world. This anxiety manifests itself in countless ways and pervades our increasingly globalized society. The group exhibition, “*Oh, what a world! What a world!*” examines how artists from the US and abroad are responding to these recent changes. With new urgency, their work addresses issues such as climate change, immigration, gender equality, race relations, policing, protest, and the very state of our Democracy. Participating artists are Olive Ayhens, Zoë Buckman, Mary Jean Canziani, David Antonio Cruz, Dahlia Elsayed, Goldschmied & Chiari, Enrico Gomez, Johannah Herr, Morgan O’Hara, Felekşan Onar, Fernando Orellana, Kern Samuel, Renée Stout, and Julie Wolfe. This exhibition will be on view in the Main Gallery.

Running concurrently in Eisenberg Gallery, *Containment* features artwork from a group of artists who examine the shipping containers and ships that move goods, people, and power across the oceans. The containerized shipping industry is central to international commerce and largely responsible for our increasingly globalized economy. The artists featured include David Packer, who has created a ceramic version of a shipping container, and Linda Ganjian whose sculptural installation reimagines a container-ship accident. Also included are Erin Diebboll and Gabby Miller, who have both been artists-in-residence on container ships and have created art in response to their firsthand experiences—Diebboll’s meticulous drawings illustrate the contents of shipping containers, and Miller used the ship’s engine oil as her medium for a series of paintings. Additionally, a site-specific installation by Leslie Kerby in Marité & Joe Robinson Strolling Gallery I, explores the movement of shipping containers and incorporates sculpture, mixed media works on paper, and video animation.

About the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey

For 85 years, the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey has been exclusively dedicated to viewing, making, and learning about contemporary art. Recognized as a leading non-profit arts organization, the Art Center’s renowned studio school, acclaimed exhibitions, and educational outreach initiatives serve thousands of youth, families, seniors, and people with special needs every year.

The Visual Arts Center of New Jersey is located at 68 Elm Street in Summit, New Jersey. Adult

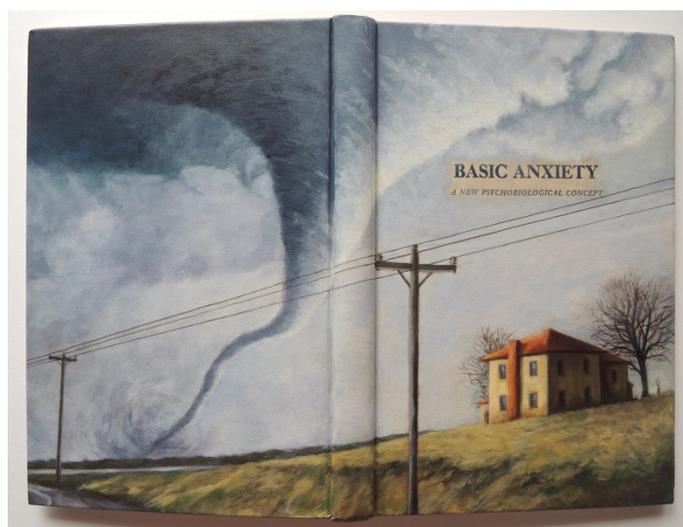
and children's group tours are available throughout the year. Gallery Hours: Monday to Wednesday and Friday 10 AM–5 PM; Thursday 10 AM–8 PM; and Saturday & Sunday 11 AM–4 PM. Please call 908-273-9121 to confirm holiday hours. Visit artcenternj.org for more information.

Support

Major support for the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey is provided in part by the Walter V. & Judith L. Shipley Family Foundation, the Wilf Family Foundations, and Art Center members and donors.



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Mary Jean Canziani

Basic Anxiety—A New Psychobiological Concept, 2017

Acrylic on repurposed book, 9 1/2 x 13 in. Courtesy of the artist.



Leslie Kerby

The World Contained, 2015

Oil on cardboard