



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WADSWORTH ATHENEUM MUSEUM OF ART PREMIERES  
NEW WORK BY ARTIST ALLISON SCHULNIK**

On view Feb. 6 – May 4, 2014, the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art’s MATRIX 168 will feature work by widely-acclaimed artist Allison Schulnik. Centering on the museum premiere of “Eager” (2014), a new stop-motion, clay animation video by Schulnik, the exhibition will also include the artist’s 2011 film, “Mound,” which Schulnik describes as, “a celebration of the moving painting,” and which The New York Times says, “demonstrates the thrill of old-fashioned animation.”

Schulnik’s clay animation videos feature lonely, marginalized characters accompanied by moody and obscure musical pieces. Both “Eager” and “Mound” exemplify the thrilling effects of old-fashioned animation techniques, which Schulnik learned while studying with legendary animator Jules Engel, a contributor to Disney classics “Fantasia” (1940) and “Bambi” (1942), and founding director of the Experimental Animation Program at California Institute of the Arts (Cal Arts).

“I draw from dance, movies, music, cartoons, once-loved discarded relics, long-loved junk classics, myself and loved ones, strangers and stars, fools and sages,” said Schulnik. “I like to meld earthly fact, blatant fiction and a love for raw material and the hand-made to form a stage of tragedy, farce, and ominous, crude beauty.”

Accompanying Schulnik’s videos, the adjacent gallery will feature a fantastical installation of 14 paintings and a motley cast of sculptures on mismatched pedestals—which directly connect to her videos through subject matter, color palette and heavy impasto effects. The tactile nature of Schulnik’s paintings creates a motion-like sensibility that affords them unparalleled depth and energy.

“Allison Schulnik is a bright young artist whose work aligns with the goals of the MATRIX series well,” said Patricia Hickson, Emily Hall Tremaine Curator of Contemporary Art. “Her work in mixed media is relevant to how artists are working today to eliminate barriers between disciplines, creating pieces that transcend simple subject matter.”

Schulnik was born in San Diego in 1978 and currently lives and works in Los Angeles. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Experimental Animation from Cal Arts. In addition to art making, she has a background in dance and is also a musician. These ongoing activities inform her art. Schulnik’s works reside in notable collections, including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego; the Santa Barbara Museum of Art; and the Musée des beaux-arts, Montréal. Schulnik’s animation can be seen in the indie-rock band Grizzly Bear’s music video for “Ready, Able,” and she was also recently featured as a Critic’s Pick in Artforum. She is represented by Mark Moore Gallery, Los Angeles, and ZieherSmith Inc., New York, where “Eager” will be on view through Feb. 22. More information is available at [ziehersmith.com](http://ziehersmith.com).

### **Exhibition Credit**

MATRIX 168 is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. The MATRIX program is also supported in part by the current and founding members of the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art’s Contemporary Coalition. Support for the Wadsworth Atheneum is provided in part by the Greater Hartford Art Council’s United Arts Campaign and the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development Office of the Arts, which also received support from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

### **Related Programming**

An opening reception for “Allison Schulnik / MATRIX 168” will take place during the museum’s First Thursday event Thursday, Feb. 6, from 5 – 8 p.m. The artist will give a gallery talk at 6 p.m., and a Claymation workshop, music by Goodnight Blue Moon, a performance by Full Force Dance Theatre and animated Claymation short films will also be offered. Admission is \$5, free for members. A gallery talk by Hickson will occur Friday, Feb. 28 at noon and is free with museum admission.

### **About MATRIX**

MATRIX, a changing exhibition of contemporary art, was initiated in 1975 as an experimental pilot project with a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Since then,

MATRIX has presented over 1,000 works of art by more than 160 artists. MATRIX has served as the first one-person show in the United States for many distinguished artists, including Jonathan Borofsky, Daniel Buren, Neil Jenney, Barbara Kruger, Louise Lawler, Glenn Ligon, Sylvia Plimack Mangold, Gerhard Richter, Lorna Simpson, Nancy Spero, Richard Tuttle and Carrie Mae Weems. From its inception, MATRIX has been a forum for art that is challenging, current and sometimes controversial, calling into question preconceptions about art and inspiring more than 50 similar programs across the country, including the MATRIX Program at the UC Berkeley Art Museum.

### **About the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art**

Founded in 1842, the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art is the oldest public art museum in the United States. The museum's nearly 50,000 works of art span 5,000 years, from Greek and Roman antiquities to the first museum collection of American contemporary art. The Museum's five connected buildings—representing architectural styles from Gothic Revival to Modern International Style—are located at 600 Main Street in Hartford, Connecticut. Hours: Wed – Fri: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sat & Sun: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; First Thursdays: 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. Admission: \$5 – 10; discounts for members, students and seniors. Public phone: (860) 278-2670; website: [thewadsworth.org](http://thewadsworth.org).

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