Elyse Defoor is a multidisciplinary artist who is inspired by a person’s connection to their inner spirit and unconscious world. From this passionate inspiration, she produces artwork that can be both bold and mysterious. Her drawings and paintings, sculpture and photography along with her large scale installations have gained international recognition and national exposure.

In 2008, Defoor’s series “X.U.ME” was presented as a solo exhibition at the Alexandria Museum of Art in Louisiana. X.U.ME is Defoor’s visual response to having seen the Xs marked across the New Orleans landscape after Hurricane Katrina, and was initially developed during her month long residency at The Hambridge Center in 2006.

X.U.ME was featured at the Spruill Gallery, Atlanta in commemoration of the fifth anniversary of Katrina in August 2010. In addition to an interview with NBC on “Weekend Today”, a PBS special was created in October, 2010 about Defoor and X.U.ME.

In February 2010, Defoor’s solo exhibit at the Wm Turner Gallery in Atlanta introduced “Via Dorso: Sonnets to Unguarded Moments” to critical acclaim. ArtsCriticATL reviewer Jerry Cullum described Defoor’s exhibit as “classicism becomes contemporary” and “the combination of tradition and innovation is mesmerizing.”

Defoor’s past experience as an environmental graphic designer brings a wealth of knowledge of materials, production techniques, and project coordination to her exhibitions and public art installations. In September 2011, Defoor’s “one million thoughts of joy” digital installation premiered, and was seen by over 1,750,000 viewers in downtown Atlanta.

In March 2012, Defoor suspended 23 wedding dresses in an outdoor location in Castleberry Hill. This unpublicized installation marked the second phase of “Relics of Marriage” which initially began as photographic portraiture of previously worn wedding dresses hanging from a single chain in her studio. An indoor mixed-media installation of Relics of Marriage exhibited in conjunction with Atlanta Celebrates Photography 2012 at The Arts Exchange in Atlanta.

Due to popular demand, Defoor created the first version of the Relics of Marriage art photography book in which she paired the portraits with statements—ranging from biting to poignant to sugary sweet—given primarily by the dresses’ owners. Copies of this special edition accompanied a selection of large scale framed prints from the Relics series for her inaugural solo New York exhibition at Umbrella Arts Gallery in New York City, April – June 2015.

From her “Exposed” series of mixed media drawings, Defoor was invited to be one of twelve artists to participate in “The Drawing Experiment” at the Chastain Art Gallery in Atlanta, July. 2015. In August 2016, her work from the Belted series was exhibited at Whitespace Gallery as part of “The Garden of Unearthly Delights”, in celebration of the Bosch Quincentenary.

Defoor’s solo exhibit “Unbridled” at Gallery 72 in Atlanta, included two large-scale installations of her work from “Belted”, “Exuvia” and the “Relics of Marriage” series. “Unbridled” was sponsored by the City of Atlanta Mayor’s Office of Cultural Affairs, April 12 – June 7, 2018.

Elyse Defoor lives and works in Atlanta, Georgia.

Videos of “Unbridled”, and the first day of the Relics of Marriage outdoor installation in Castleberry Hill, along with exhibit tours, NBC, and a PBS special, may be viewed on Elyse Defoor–YouTube.
### Solo Exhibits

**“Unbridled”**  
City of Atlanta Gallery 72  
Atlanta, GA  
2018

**“Relics of Marriage”**  
Umbrella Arts Gallery  
New York, NY  
2015

**“Relics of Marriage”**  
The X-change Gallery at  
The Arts Exchange  
Atlanta, Georgia  
2012

**“one million thoughts of joy”**  
Digital art installation at  
I-85/75 and Williams St. Exit  
Atlanta, Georgia  
2011

**“Via Dorso: Sonnets to Unguarded Moments”**  
Wm. Turner Gallery  
Atlanta, Georgia  
2010

**“X.U.M.E”**  
Alexandria Museum of Art  
Alexandria, LA  
2008

**“X.U.M.E”**  
Wesleyan College  
Macon, GA  
2007

**“Elyse Defoor”**  
Wake Forest University  
Winston-Salem, NC  
2006

**“Liquid”**  
Gallery Sklo,  
Atlanta, GA  
2005

**“Soul Signatures”**  
The Granite Room  
Atlanta, Georgia  
2005

**“Past Present Future”**  
Emory University  
Dobbs University Center Gallery  
Atlanta, Georgia  
2002

**“Water’s Edge”**  
Artemis Gallery  
Apalachicola, Florida  
2000

**“Talking Back”**  
Callanwolde Fine Arts Center  
Atlanta, Georgia  
1999

### Group Exhibits & Awards

**“All That Is Holy”**  
Blue Mark Gallery  
Atlanta, Georgia  
2018

**Hambidge Center for the Arts & Science Invitational**  
Atlanta, Georgia  
2012 – 2018

**Art Papers Invitational**  
Atlanta, Georgia  
2011 – 2018

**“Fall Line 50”**  
Award for the art book “Relics of Marriage”  
Fall Line Press  
Atlanta, Georgia  
2017

**“The Imaginary Million”**  
WonderRoot  
Atlanta, Georgia  
2014, 2016

**“The Garden of Unearthly Delights”**  
Whitespace Gallery  
Atlanta, GA  
2016

**“Digital Picture Selects for ACP”**  
Mason Gallery  
Atlanta, GA  
2015

**“The Drawing Experiment”**  
Chastain Arts Gallery  
Atlanta, GA  
2016

**LaGrange National Biennial XXV**  
Lamar Dodd Art Center  
LaGrange, GA  
2008

**“Looks Good on Paper”**  
Spruill Gallery  
May 2005, July 2007

**“Winning the Battle, Losing the War”**  
Swan Coach House Gallery  
Atlanta, Georgia  
2002 – 2008

**“Refusing to Dance Backwards”**  
Spruill Gallery  
Atlanta, GA  
2005

**National Juried Exhibition**  
Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville  
Douglasville, Georgia  
2004

**“Works on Paper”**  
Spruill Gallery  
Atlanta, Georgia  
2003

**National Juried Exhibition**  
Emory University  
2003

**“Past Present Future”**  
Emory University  
Dobbs University Center Gallery  
Atlanta, Georgia  
2002

**“Water’s Edge”**  
Artemis Gallery  
Apalachicola, Florida  
2000

**“Talking Back”**  
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1999
# Publications

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<tr>
<th>ArtsATL.com</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jerry Cullum</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;Cullum’s Notebook: May brings shows not to be overlooked&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;Elyse Defoor’s classical turn at Wm Turner Gallery&quot;</td>
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<th>ArtsATL.com</th>
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<td>Catherine Fox</td>
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<td>&quot;The Garden of Unearthly Delights rises to the occasion with love, humor and creativity&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;The art – and controversy – of Hurricane Katrina ‘X-codes’&quot;</td>
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<td>A story focusing on “Southern Spaces” photo essay curated by Dorothy Moye</td>
<td>&quot;Final expression given to chance” Gallery Sklo</td>
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<td>Dan Weiskopf</td>
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<td>7-28-2015</td>
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<td>&quot;Twelve artists respond in diverse ways to ‘Drawing Experiment’ at Chastain Gallery”</td>
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<td>&quot;Outside the Lines” Granite Room</td>
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<th>Don’t Take Pictures.com</th>
<th>Atlanta Journal-Constitution</th>
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<td>Roger Thompson</td>
<td>Jerry Cullum</td>
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<td>2-6-2015</td>
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<td>&quot;The Evolution of Metro Show 2015&quot;</td>
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<td>9-3-2014</td>
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<td>&quot;Diverse group of female artists explore ‘Sense of Self’ at Arts Exchange gallery”</td>
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<td>Meredith Kooi</td>
<td>Jerry Cullum</td>
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# Television

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<tr>
<td>&quot;Gallery Marks Katrina Anniversary with ‘X’”</td>
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Curatorial Experience

"40 over 40"
EBD4
Chamblee, GA
2017

Co-Chair at the Xchange Gallery
The Arts Exchange
Atlanta, GA
2012 – 2015

Residencies

The Hambidge Center

Virginia Center for the Creative Arts
2014

Education

Bachelor of Fine Arts
University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia

Advanced Painting
Atlanta College of Art

Gallery

Kibbee Gallery
Atlanta, Georgia
http://www.kibbeegallery.com/