

# Elyse Defoor

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www.ElyseDefoor.com

## BIOGRAPHY

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 Hambidge 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.*

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## 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 Xchange 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.ME"*  
Alexandria Museum of Art  
Alexandria, LA  
2008

*"X.U.ME"*  
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  
2015

*Metro Curates* Invitational  
Umbrella Arts Gallery  
New York, NY  
2015

*"Sense of Self"*  
The Xchange Gallery at  
The Arts Exchange  
Atlanta, Georgia  
2014

*Fine Arts Exhibition* Juried Exhibit  
Dalton Gallery at Agnes Scott College  
Decatur, Georgia  
2012 and 2013

Rialto Visual Arts Center Invitational  
Atlanta, Georgia  
2012

Fulton County Arts Registry  
Photography & Painting  
2011

*"Georgia Artists: A Juried Exhibit"*  
Abernathy Arts Center  
Sandy Springs, Georgia  
2011

*"The Surrealist Next Door"*  
Wm. Turner Gallery  
Atlanta, Georgia  
2010

On-line Photography Exhibit  
SouthernSpaces.org  
Emory University  
2010

*"Katrina: Five years of reflection"*  
Spruill Gallery  
Atlanta, Georgia  
2010

LaGrange National Biennial XXV  
Lamar Dodd Art Center  
LaGrange, GA  
Juror- Julian Cox,  
High Museum of Art  
2008

*"Looks Good on Paper"*  
Spruill Gallery  
May 2005, July 2007  
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 Chairs Project –  
*Aerial Chaises* site installation  
Emory University  
Atlanta, Georgia  
2003

Collaboration with composer  
Paul Lansky  
Emory Performing Arts Studio  
Atlanta, Georgia  
2001

Emory University  
MacMillan Law Library  
Atlanta, Georgia  
1997

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www.RelicsofMarriage.com

## Publications

*ArtsATL.com*

Jerry Cullum

5-7-2018

"Cullum's Notebook: May brings shows not to be overlooked"  
*Gallery 72*

*ArtsATL.com*

Catherine Fox

9-17-2016

"The Garden of Unearthly Delights' rises to the occasion with love, humor and creativity"  
*Whitespace Gallery*

*Washington.Post.com/news/the-fix/*

Janell Ross

8-29-2015

"The art – and controversy – of Hurricane Katrina 'X-codes'  
A story focusing on "Southern Spaces"  
photo essay curated by Dorothy Moye

*ArtsATL.com*

Dan Weiskopf

7-28-2015

"Twelve artists respond in diverse ways to 'Drawing Experiment' at Chastain Gallery"

*Musée Magazine.com*

Andrea Blanch

5-7-2015

"Elyse Defoor: Relics of Marriage at Umbrella Arts"

*Don't Take Pictures.com*

Roger Thompson

2-6-2015

"The Evolution of Metro Show 2015"

*ArtsATL.com*

Jerry Cullum

9-3-2014

"Diverse group of female artists explore 'Sense of Self' at Arts Exchange gallery"

*Burnaway.org*

Meredith Kooi

8-27-2014

"Is Feminism a Dirty Word in Art?"  
*The Arts Exchange*

*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

David Lee Simmons

8-8-2010

"Reflecting on Katrina, 5 years later"  
*Spruill Gallery*

*Creative Loafing*

Cinque Hicks

8-3-2010

"The fine line between meaningful art and disaster porn"  
*Spruill Gallery*

*ArtsCritic.ATL.com*

Jerry Cullum

2-22-2010

"Elyse Defoor's classical turn at Wm Turner Gallery"

*Winston-Salem Journal*

Tom Patterson

3-12-2006

"A Fascinating Crowd:..."  
*Wake Forest University  
Hanes Art Gallery*

*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

Jerry Cullum

6-19-2005

"Final expression given to chance" *Gallery Sklo*

*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

Jerry Cullum

2-3-2005

"Outside the Lines" *Granite Room*

*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

Catherine Fox

1-30-2005

"Group exhibit..." *Spruill Gallery*

*Emory Magazine*

Mary J. Loftus

Summer 2003

"Chair & Chair Alike"

[http://www.emory.edu/EMORY\\_MAGAZINE/summer2003/precis\\_chairs.html](http://www.emory.edu/EMORY_MAGAZINE/summer2003/precis_chairs.html)

*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

Jerry Cullum

5-29-2001

"Oceana"

*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

Catherine Fox

10-29-1999

"Rage on Canvas"

*Callanwolde Arts Center*

## Television

*WPBA 30 "This is Atlanta"*

10-27-2010

"Elyse Defoor - X.U.ME"

*NBC Weekend Today*

8-28-2010

"X Marks the Spot"

*WXIA 11 Alive News*

8-28-2010

"Gallery Marks Katrina Anniversary with 'X'"

*WSB Channel 2 Action News*

8-26-2010

"Gallery Marks Katrina Anniversary with 'X'"

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## Curatorial Experience

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*"40 over 40"*

EBD4

Chamblee, GA

2017

Co-Chair at the Xchange Gallery

The Arts Exchange

Atlanta, GA

2012 – 2015

## Residencies

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The Hambidge Center

2005 – 2008, 2010

Virginia Center for the Creative Arts

2014

## Education

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Bachelor of Fine Arts

University of Georgia

Athens, Georgia

Advanced Painting

Atlanta College of Art