

# Elyse Defoor

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www.ElyseDefoor.com

## BIOGRAPHY

Elyse Defoor is an artist and curator based in Atlanta who responds to the wonders and tragedies in this world. Her drawings and paintings, sculpture and photography along with her large scale installations have gained international recognition.

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's "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. For two weeks 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, and one is in the collection of the New York Public Library.

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.

Sponsored by the City of Atlanta Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs, 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, in the Spring of 2018.

In October 2019, Defoor created "Uncloaked", a large scale installation at Thomas Deans Fine Art. New works of sculpture and photography from Exuvia were included in addition to her most recent drawings from the "Exposed" series.

Defoor's curatorial experience began in 2012 at the Arts Exchange. She created EBD4 as her studio, and continued her curatorial efforts there with "40 over 40" in 2017, and a national call which resulted in an exhibit of artists from nineteen states for "Loss. Redemption. Grace." In October, Defoor curated the "Drag Queens & Club Kids: Al Clayton" exhibit for Atlanta Celebrates Photography 2019.

*Videos of "Uncloaked", "Unbridled", "all of us, alone" and the first day of the Relics of Marriage outdoor installation in Castleberry Hill Atlanta, along with exhibit tours, NBC, and a PBS special, may be viewed on Elyse Defoor—YouTube and on her website, ElyseDefoor.com.*

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## Solo Exhibits

- "Uncloaked"*  
Thomas Deans Fine Art  
Atlanta, GA  
2019
- "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.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
- "Talking Back"*  
Callanwolde Fine Arts Center  
Atlanta, Georgia  
1999

## Group Exhibits & Awards

- Art Papers* Invitational  
Atlanta, Georgia  
2011 – 2020
- "The Object Show"*  
EBD4 Gallery  
Atlanta, Georgia  
2018
- "Georgia on my Mind"*  
Elkor Gallery  
Riga, Latvia  
2018
- "Civil Discourse"*  
Kibbee Gallery  
Atlanta, Georgia  
2018
- "Transformers"*  
Dalton Gallery at Agnes Scott College  
Atlanta, Georgia  
2018
- "All That Is Holy"*  
Blue Mark Gallery  
Atlanta, Georgia  
2018
- Hambidge Center for the  
Arts & Science Invitational  
Atlanta, Georgia  
2012 – 2018
- "Fall Line 50"*  
Award for the art book  
*"Relics of Marriage"*  
Fall Line Press  
Atlanta, Georgia  
2017
- "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
- "Refusing to Dance Backwards"*  
Spruill Gallery, Atlanta, GA  
2005
- National Juried Exhibition  
Cultural Arts Council of  
Douglasville  
Douglasville, Georgia  
2004
- "Looks Good on Paper"*  
Spruill Gallery  
2003, 2005, 2007  
Swan Coach House Gallery  
Atlanta, Georgia  
2002 – 2008
- National Juried Exhibition  
Emory Chairs Project –  
*Aerial Chaises* site installation  
Emory University  
Atlanta, Georgia  
2003

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## Publications

*ArtsATL.com*

Candice Dyer

7-1-2019

"Loss, Redemption, Grace.' at EBD4 responds artfully to human tragedies"

*ArtsATL.com*

Catherine Fox

9-17-2016

"The Garden of Unearthly Delights' rises to the occasion with love, humor and creativity at 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/](http://www.emory.edu/EMORY_MAGAZINE/summer2003/precis_chairs.html)

[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*

## Podcast & Television

*The Cultured Podcast*

9-16-2018

"Elyse Defoor - Intimacy in Art"

*WPBA 30 "This is Atlanta"*

10-27-2010

"Elyse Defoor - X.U.M.E"

*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'"

# Elyse Defoor

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## Curatorial Experience

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*"Drag Queens & Club Kids—  
Al Clayton Photography"*  
Atlanta Celebrates Photography 2019  
EBD4  
Chamblee, GA  
October, 2019

*"Loss. Redemption. Grace."*  
EBD4  
Chamblee, GA  
June, 2019

*"SnowGlobe"*  
EBD4  
Chamblee, GA  
November, 2018

*"40 over 40"*  
EBD4  
Chamblee, GA  
November, 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

## Collections

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- The Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia
- The New York Public Library
- Private collections throughout the United States, and in Singapore, Switzerland, and Africa