

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. Currently, she is working as an artist in residence at EBD4.

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 along with her own installation for "Loss. Redemption. Grace." In October, Defoor curated the "Drag Queens & Club Kids: Al Clayton" exhibit for Atlanta Celebrates Photography 2019.

Videos of "Elyse Defoor— Art Installation / Loss. Redemption. Grace", "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 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.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
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
Atlanta, Georgia
2019
- "Loss. Redemption. Grace"*
EBD4
Atlanta, Georgia
2019
- "Georgia on my Mind"*
Elkor Gallery
Riga, Latvia
2019
- "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
- 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/
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'"

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Curatorial Experience

*"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

The Hambidge Center
2005 – 2008, 2010

Virginia Center for the Creative Arts
2014

Education

Bachelor of Fine Arts
University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia

Advanced Painting
Atlanta College of Art

Collections

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