

Elyse Defoor

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www.ElyseDefoor.com

404.667.1902

ARTIST STATEMENT 2023

As has long been said, and said rightly, the personal is political.

I use photography, sculpture, installation, drawing and painting – whatever it takes – to express a variety of conditions faced by the human body and spirit.

My practice is inspired by moments of joy, pain and loss; the artwork is generated from pieces of evidence left behind after substantial experiences of transformation and personal evolution. I tend to work very serially with each body of work evolving from the ones before and catalog each of these as chapters in my oeuvre – “the art of personal mythology.”

It is my belief that great art stirs mystery and memory and I strive to create unfolding experiences that draw on our unique, but collective human emotions.

BIOGRAPHY

Elyse Defoor (b. Greenville, SC, 1952) is a multi-disciplinary artist and curator who lives and works in Atlanta. She received her education from the University of Georgia and the Atlanta College of Art. For over twenty years, she has used her art to respond to the wonders and the tragedies of the world. She consistently uses personal iconography as a vehicle to outwardly express her inner response to universal conditions. From this passionate inspiration, she produces artwork that causes a visceral shift in the eye and mind of the viewer.

Defoor’s drawings, paintings, photographs and large-scale installations have gained international recognition and national exposure. Her original art and archival reproductions can be found in numerous corporate and private collections throughout the world.

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 & Group Exhibits

- 2022 *Slivers of Time*, The Art Institute of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA (solo)
Motion > Blur, Honorable Mention Award, International Juried Photography Exhibition, Praxis Photo Arts Center, Minneapolis, MN
Gathered V, Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia, Atlanta, GA
- 2019 *Uncloaked*, Thomas Deans Fine Art, Atlanta, GA (solo)
The Object Show, EBD4, Atlanta, GA
Loss. Redemption. Grace, EBD4, Atlanta, GA
- 2018 *Unbridled*, City of Atlanta Gallery 72, Atlanta, GA (solo)
Civil Discourse, Kibbee Gallery, Atlanta, GA
Transformers, Dalton Gallery at Agnes Scott College, Decatur, GA
All that is Holy, Blue Mark Gallery, Atlanta, GA
- 2016 *The Garden of Unearthly Delights*, Whitespace Gallery, Atlanta, GA
- 2015 *Relics of Marriage*, Umbrella Arts Gallery, New York, NY (solo)
The Drawing Experiment, Chastain Arts Gallery, Atlanta, GA
Metro Curates Invitational, Umbrella Arts Gallery, New York, NY
Digital Picture Selects for ACP, Mason Fine Art, Atlanta, GA
- 2012 *Relics of Marriage*, The Xchange Gallery at the Arts Exchange, Atlanta, GA (solo)
- 2011 *One Million Thoughts of Joy: Digital Art Installation*, I-85/75 and Williams Street Exit, Atlanta, GA (solo)
- 2010 *Via Dorso: Sonnets to Unguarded Moments*, Wm Turner Gallery, Atlanta, GA (solo)
- 2008 *X.U.M.E.*, Alexandria Museum of Art, Alexandria, LA (solo)
- 2007 *X.U.M.E.*, Wesleyan College, Macon, GA (solo)
- 2006 *Elyse Defoor*, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC (solo)
- 2005 *Soul Signatures*, The Granite Room, Atlanta, GA (solo)
Liquid, Gallery Sklo, Atlanta, GA (solo)
- 2003 *Aerial Chaises*, National Juried Exhibition Emory Chairs Project Site installation, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia

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Curatorial Experience

"7th Biennial Alumni Art Exhibition"
University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA
August, 2021

"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
- Acoustic Headquarters, Dunwoody, Georgia
- Private collections throughout the United States, and in Singapore, Switzerland, and Africa

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Publications

ArtsATL.com

12-5-2022

"Cullum's Notebook: Personal mythology in garter belts, tree stumps, Carolina blue"
The Art Institute of Atlanta

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

ArtsCriticATL.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

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

Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Catherine Fox

10-29-1999

"Rage on Canvas"

Callanwolde Arts Center

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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' "