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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### ***Jeila Gueramian: Let's Step Inside***

*Site-Specific Installation Features Magical World of Whimsical Creatures*

**Katonah, NY, February 18, 2022** – The Katonah Museum of Art is pleased to present *Jeila Gueramian: Let's Step Inside*, on view March 13–June 26, 2022. Full of whimsical creatures and surprising elements, the installation—collaboratively presented by the Katonah Museum of Art and the Katonah Village Library—will entice visitors to inspect, discover, and engage with the fantastical environments. A multidisciplinary artist known for her playful creations that combine repurposed textiles and technology, Gueramian will create public installations in the Museum's Learning Center and the Library's front plaza/indoor spaces.

After graduating with a BFA in ceramics, Gueramian spent years working in various film, set design, and costume departments, all the while making inventive stuffed animals out of vintage fabrics for friends and family. Inspiration is found in salvaged and found objects, and source material is never farther away than the nearest thrift store. Gueramian grew up taking things apart and putting them back together in new ways. As an adult, she has made a career out of taking something common and homely and turning it on

end, enticing the most seasoned art viewer to delight with her one-of-a-kind works. Her large, wonder-filled installations are just as much about the audience's interaction as they are about the objects themselves.

Within the comfort of her soft, womb-like structures, Gueramian welcomes the inner child to emerge. This magical environment is full of unusual creatures, lush textures, bright colors, and playful motifs hand-crafted from recycled textiles to become something enticing and fantastical, and yet never threatening. She seeks to create alternate worlds defined by imagination and exploration. The created world is warm and welcoming—a place where the imagination is safe to run wild and explore—and one which the viewers can physically enter, engaging with the work as they become part of it.

As described by Gueramian herself, “I like to inspire exploration. I create alternate worlds and invite people to lose themselves in them: awaken their senses, feel like a kid, be in the moment, laugh or be a little scared, stop and ask a question, get involved in a fantasy, believe in the magical.” Her playful creations morph into elaborate environments—they not only decorate the room—they are the room. Gueramian's installations, in effect, are quilted worlds of imagined, nature-inspired delight.

*Let's Step Inside* opens at the Katonah Museum of Art with a *1st Look* on March 12, followed by a Member Preview and Public Opening on March 13. In conjunction with the exhibition, there will be a full calendar of adult and family programs, including adult art workshops that explore clay and textiles (April 18 and June 9, 5:30-7:30 PM) and a Museum Family Day (May 14, 11:30 AM-4:00 PM), Katonah Art Stroll, and additional programs held at other community locations. Materials will be available in English and Spanish.

### **About the Artist:**



Jeila Gueramian is a multidisciplinary artist who lives and works in Brooklyn and Wassaic, New York. Born in Los Angeles, she attended Otis Parsons School of Design and has a background in costume, prop, and art design.

Gueramian has had large scale installations at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art AR, Columbus Museum of Art OH, Children's Museum of Art NYC and group shows at Frist Center TN, Mint Museum NC and Telfair Museum GA. Gueramian has given artist lectures at MOMA Teen Program; Crystal Bridges; School of Visual Arts; Ramapo College.

Artist Residencies include Wassaic Project, NY; Art Garda, Srimione Italy; Listhus, Olafsfjorur, Iceland. She was awarded Smack Melon's "Hot Picks 2015" and been reviewed in Frieze Magazine, Art Forum, Surface Design Magazine, Vice Creators Project, Art F City.

### **About the Katonah Museum of Art:**

The Katonah Museum of Art promotes the understanding and enjoyment of the visual arts for diverse audiences. The Museum presents exhibitions that explore ideas about art, culture, and society – past and present – through innovative exhibition and education programs.

Timed-entry tickets and reservations are recommended and should be purchased in advance. Museum hours: Tuesday through Saturday from 10 AM–5 PM, Sunday from 12 PM–5 PM, closed Monday. General admission: \$12 adults, \$6 seniors and students. Members and children under the age of 12 always enter free. For more information, please call (914) 232-9555 or visit [www.katonahmuseum.org](http://www.katonahmuseum.org).

The KMA is committed to keeping its visitors healthy and safe. **Proof** of COVID-19 vaccination or negative COVID-19 test within 24 hours (ages 5+) and masks (ages 2+) are required for all visitors. Advance timed tickets are recommended.

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## Exhibition Support



This project is made possible in part by the The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Este proyecto es posible en parte por el Instituto de Servicios de Museos y Bibliotecas.

The views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this exhibition do not necessarily represent those of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

## About the IMLS

The IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. We advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. Our vision is a nation where museums and libraries work together to transform the lives of individuals and communities. To learn more, visit [www.imls.gov](http://www.imls.gov) and follow us on **Facebook** and **Twitter**.



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Jeila Gueramian, *It's You*, Installed at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art as part of *State of the Art* in 2014. Photo courtesy of the artist.

