



MEDIA RELEASE

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Dubuque Museum of Art Presents New Exhibits ***River Sojourn and Soundscapes***

Joint exhibits, opening May 7, include works by four artists and highlight two aspects of Dubuque's native ecology: the prairie and river

(DUBUQUE, IA) – When the Dubuque Museum of Art (DuMA) opens two new exhibits to the public on May 7, visitors will be able to see and hear the sounds of Iowa's native landscape as never before.

River Sojourn and *Soundscapes* include the work of four contemporary artists, each using different media and technology to observe and document the natural world.

River Sojourn is a series of paintings by Minnesota artist and American landscape painter, Sara Lubinski. Trained as a botanist, Lubinski's science career included time spent learning about the ecology of the Mississippi River and many of our national parks. The beauty of these landscapes catalyzed her transition back to the easel, where Lubinski creates paintings that are deeply expressive of the natural environment. *River Sojourn* will include more than 20 of the artist's paintings, which were previously exhibited at the Minnesota Marine Art Museum in 2014.

Accompanying *River Sojourn* will be the exhibition *Soundscapes*, which explores how media and technology relates to natural systems and shapes our experience of nature.

At the center of *Soundscapes* is a sprawling sound installation created by composer, artist and School of the Art Institute of Chicago faculty member Shawn Decker. Titled *Prairie*, Decker's work is comprised of hundreds of thin metal rods, each attached to a speaker and designed to respond to visitors' movements. *Prairie* was previously exhibited at the Chicago Cultural Center and the Herron School of Art and Design at Indiana University in Indianapolis, Indiana and was most recently shown at the Wichita Art Museum in Wichita, Kansas.

Prairie will be complimented by two additional sound-based installations. Artist Brendan Baylor's digital sound book, *Iowa River Ideology/Function*, utilizes sound recordings, taken by the artist along the Iowa River, of natural and industrial systems. Baylor earned his MFA from the University of Iowa and currently holds the Hulings Teaching Fellowship in Drawing and Printmaking at Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin. Artist Claudia Esslinger's *La Medida* (the measurement) is a video installation that explores the role of measuring systems in our understanding of the natural world. Esslinger is professor of art at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio.

The exhibitions will be view in the Falb Family Gallery at DuMA from May 7 - June 31, 2016 and will be accompanied by numerous programs and events (all free of charge unless otherwise noted):

- Member Preview and First Friday
Friday, May 6, 5 – 8 pm

\$10 admission (free for DuMA members) includes one drink and appetizers.

- "The Driftless Land: Stories, Scenes and Songs of the Upper Mississippi"
Sunday, June 5, 1:30 p.m.

Nature writer Dr. Kevin Koch and musician Dr. Robert Dunn, both professors at Loras College in Dubuque, will present a one-hour, multimedia experience integrating original music, nature photography and non-fiction storytelling to interpret the connections people share with the landscape.

- Sara Lubinski Gallery Talk
Saturday, June 18, 1:30 p.m.
- Panel Discussion: Connections between Art and Science
Sunday, June 19, 1:30 p.m.

Sara Lubinski, artists and botanist, and Larry Stone, journalist, biologist and nature photographer, will talk with Mark Wagener, Director of Education, National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium

- Piano Performance
Sunday, July 10, 1:30 p.m.

Dr. Elaina Burns will present a piano program inspired by the Mississippi River and the prairie.

Additional details on all events may be accessed at www.dbqart.com.

In addition, guided tours of both exhibits will be offered during the Dubuque Fine Arts Festival, May 20-22, and may be scheduled at other times by contacting Margaret Buhr, director of education, at 563-557-1851.

Soundscapes and River Sojourn are supported in part by a grant from Humanities Iowa and a media partnership with Wisconsin Public Radio.

The Dubuque Museum of Art (DuMA), founded in 1874 and accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, is Iowa's oldest cultural institution. Named a national affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution in 2016, DuMA's mission is to excite, engage, and educate constituents through the presentation of collections, exhibitions, and programming; to form mutually beneficial partnerships to enhance the role of the arts within our community; and to adhere to professional museum standards in all operations. DuMA is located across from Washington Park in historic downtown Dubuque at 7th and Locust Streets.

Museum hours are Tuesday–Friday 10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M., Saturday & Sunday 1:00 P.M.-4:00 P.M. Daily Admission: \$6 Adults, \$5 Seniors, \$3 College/University Students, free for kids every day, and free to all on Thursdays thanks to Prudential Financial. Website: www.dbqart.com