

PRESS RELEASE _ For Public Announcement

For the last five years the Grand Isle Community Development Team Art Committee has invited established New Orleans artists to jury The Grand Isle Annual Juried Exhibitions with the intention of exploring coastal erosion in Louisiana through Contemporary Art. Considering the positive response the committee received from artists and audiences and the increase in environmental concerns we have decided to organize a group retrospective of select work from past participants titled "**Uncertain Territory: Losing Louisiana**". Grand Isle is Louisiana's only inhabited barrier island. The future of this barrier island and its surrounding wetlands is uncertain. Louisiana is disappearing and no longer has protection from hurricanes. Art is the best way to communicate these significant issues.

This Invitational Exhibition was curated by the five former Grand Isle jurors all of whom are prominent New Orleans artists with national and international reputations: Allison Stewart, Adrian Deckbar, Jacqueline Bishop, Bradley Sabin and Raine Bedsole. The Exhibition will be held October 4 – November 27, 2007 at the Issac Delgado Fine Arts Gallery, Building 1, 3rd floor, Delgado Community College, 615 City Park Avenue, New Orleans. The public is invited to the opening reception October 4, 2007 6 – 8 pm. The fifteen artists included in "**Uncertain Territory: Losing Louisiana**" are: living in New Orleans Darlene Bigus-Doheny, Sallie Ann Glassman, Jeremy Jernegan, Mary Jane Parker, Cynthia Scott, and Carlos Luis Zervigon; in Pascagoula Karin Eberhardt; in Houma Claire Waguespack Fenton; in Folsom Yvonne James; in Thibodaux Delaina LeBlanc; in Baton Rouge Dede Lusk and Ed Smith, in Mobile, AL, Wanda Sullivan; in Dallas, TX, Janice C. Cartier and Melissa Turner Drumm.

Speaking about the importance of this Exhibition Jacqueline Bishop said "**Uncertain Territory: Losing Louisiana**" addresses the serious landscape issues facing Louisiana. However, this issue is not limited to our immediate environment, but bleeds across state boundaries and beyond. It is globally connected. There's no question that culture comes from the land. Sadly, much of our natural world is infected, deformed and quietly disappearing because of lack of leadership or understanding about it. When all else fails, perhaps an aesthetic approach to communicating coastal wetlands loss is necessary. This exhibition is meant to do just that."

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