



Contact Rachel Legault
Telephone 857.277.1700
Email marketing@beacongalleries.com
Website www.beacongalleries.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 12, 2018

Beacon Gallery
524B Harrison Ave
Boston MA 02118
October 5th - October 28th
Opening Night: October 5th 6 - 8 pm

Boston, MA, June 12, 2018– Beacon Gallery is pleased to announce its upcoming show, “Uprooted.” “Uprooted” is a solo show featuring multimedia work from artist Nedret Andre. Curated with Olivia Kiers, this show will feature Andre’s abstract paintings and installations of green crabs in seagrass habitats.

Andre describes “Uprooted” as “exploring the implications of how being uprooted affects both the European Green Crab and seagrass meadows.” Speaking of these crabs, Andre says, “these seemingly small creatures have proliferated to become an invasive species in New England and are now destroying acres of seagrass habitats. They dig away at seagrass rhizomes and uproot these foundation plants.” Seagrass is a key saltwater plant that feeds and protects many marine animals. Seagrass also takes CO2 out of the atmosphere and stores it in its root system and is key in the fight against global warming. However, 1.5 percent of the total quantity of seagrass is being lost per year (or about 2 football fields per hour) and green crabs are just one of the multiple threats to this vital ecosystem.

Gallery director Christine O’Donnell states, “I wanted to give Andre a chance to share her beautiful and important artwork with as many people as possible. I’ve learned so much from Andre just from our conversations planning this show. Her focus on environmentalism is inspiring, and I have a newfound respect for seagrass.”

Co-curator Olivia Kiers is an MA graduate of Boston University’s History of Art and Architecture program. She also holds a BA in French and Studio Arts from the University of Virginia. Kiers is an assistant editor of *Art New England*.

Artist Nedret Andre is a Boston-based SOWA artist who has had solo shows at Chashama Spaces NY, Enso Gallery, Artlery, Boston University, Stetson Gallery, Touch Gallery, and Atatürk Cultural Center in Istanbul, Turkey. She has been juried into shows at Monmouth Museum and Danforth Museum. Her group shows include Walsingham Gallery, Carole Calo Gallery, Soprafina Gallery, Kingston Gallery, and Danforth Museum. Her work is in collections in the US, Switzerland, Egypt, the UK, and Turkey. Her paintings have been acquired by Mount Auburn Hospital, Cape Cod Hospital, and Danvers Bank, and are included in the deCordova Museum Corporate Art Loan Program.

Nedret received her BFA in painting at Massachusetts College of Art, and her MFA from Maine College of Art.

“Uprooted” will be on display from October 5th through October 28th. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Friday 10-5 pm, and Saturday and Sunday 12-5, and by appointment. The artist will be present at the opening. For photographs or additional information, please contact Rachel Legault at marketing@beacongalleries.com or refer to our website, www.beacongalleries.com.

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Nedret Andre’s statement about “Uprooted” and a description of her work:

To belong somewhere, to have roots, a sense of history or home, and then to be uprooted: what does it mean for European Green Crab (*Canisus Maneas*) larva to have been uprooted from their native shores and transported to our coastline on the ballasts of boats in the 1800s? These seemingly small creatures proliferated and have become an invasive species in New England. They are now destroying acres of indigenous seagrass habitats. They dig away at seagrass roots and uproot these foundation plants. My work explores the implications of how being uprooted affects both the European Green Crab and Seagrass meadows with abstract paintings.



Nedret Andre, “Digging”

Digging depicts the green crab’s process of burrowing through the sediment in seagrass beds. Everything becomes disheveled by the green crab’s natural curiosity and resilience—how they not just survive but thrive in this new environment. They dig away in the sand, uproot the seagrasses, eat through all the scallops and leave empty shells behind. This painting depicts the frantic energy of the “raging mad crab” (Latin definition of *Canisus Maneas*). I use broken shapes, fragmented lines, and overlapped objects where there is no focal area. This overall pattern creates unrest. The colors are uplifting jewel tones used to represent the vibrancy of the amazing seagrass habitat being destroyed.



Nedret Andre "Green Crab Cove"

Green Crab Cove, in contrast, is a calm abstract landscape with shimmering light. If the painting is viewed from afar the whole cove becomes a green crab basking in the sun. This play on being both object and land happened while I was thinking about how and why the green crab has been here for over 100 years and still is called a migrant crab. At what point do we say "they belong"... or not? The periwinkle is also a migrant mollusk on our shores that came during the 1800s, but it is not seen as an invasive species. Periwinkles were uprooted yet have been assimilated.



Nedret Andre, "Floating Rock Crab"

Abstract volumes drift across the top of *Floating Rock Crab*. Another type of movement occurs on the bottom half of the canvas. Sediment and shuffling — the viewer may not be sure exactly what is occurring, only that there is a different kind of more densely packed movement towards the base. In this painting I contrast two types of movement: at the top is a column of water moving with leftover floating shells of rock crabs (a native species). The other movement at the bottom of the canvas is the hungry green crab rummaging. This painting is a reflection of the destructive nature of green crabs. Native crabs such as rock crabs, mollusks and eelgrass beds are being lost at alarming rates. One green crab can consume 40 half-inch clams a day, as well as other crabs its own size.



Nedret Andre "When the fog rolls in"

When the Fog Rolls In is a more poetic reflection of the colors in seagrass meadows when changes in weather occur. Both visible yet intangible, fog brings our attention to a wealth of sensations of which we are not usually aware. This experience of being engulfed by fog happened on one of my field trips with Alyssa Novak's seagrass conservation group in Wellfleet. One minute we were harvesting seagrass; the next minute the fog was so dense that we could barely see anything. It was amazing: all of our senses came alive to compensate for the muting of our sight. Colors were brighter, textures more exaggerated, and one's sense of hearing was sharpened, but all within a circumscribed space. In this painting I try to capture this tension between the visual isolation and the unexpected magnification of beauty of the eelgrass meadow in that moment.

In addition to these four works and other paintings, "Uprooted" will feature a video installations of seagrass conservation efforts of local marine ecologists work in the field. It is my ambition to bring much-needed attention to this vitally important habitat. A portion of all proceeds from this show will be donated to non-profits involved in seagrass conservation.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Rachel Legault at 857.277.1700 or email at marketing@beacongallery.com.