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**“B. Lynch: Fool’s Progress”**  
**Multi-Media exhibition opens at ECSU’s Akus Gallery**

WILLIMANTIC -- On life’s journey, how do we choose between health and wealth, power and love, charity and vanity? From March 18 to April 27, visitors to ECSU’s Akus Gallery will be led by artist B. Lynch’s multi-media installation, *Fools’ Progress*, on a facsimile quest investigating the life choices we make. Inspired by philosopher Erasmus’ 1509 *In Praise of Folly*, Lynch’s 7-foot tall sculpted archetypes present both sides of human character: is the figure of *Justice* a true, or corrupt man? Is the *Healer* a sage, or a quack?

*Fool’s Progress*, a new installation for Lynch, is inspired by art historical, theatrical, and literary forms that investigate the journey of the self toward knowledge. The artist’s lifelong curiosity and contact with philosophy, art, literature, and theatre provoked her artistic investigation into our contemporary personal and cultural histories. Conceived as a journey for the viewer on a multi-forked path, questions on such seminal issues as justice and temptation are jointly raised by Lynch’s costumed “folly” figures, paintings, architectural constructions, image projection, original video, and lighting effects, all aimed toward building the sojourner’s self-knowledge. The *Throne Project*, an interactive set within the installation, allows the visitor to preside over his/her ultimate choices.

Catherine Mayes, curator of contemporary art at The Art Complex Museum in Duxbury, Massachusetts, describes Lynch’s work as “...like a sitcom written by Erasmus in which Alice In Wonderland goes to tea with [artists] Pieter Bruegel the Elder, Honore Daumier,

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Red Grooms, Jonathan Borofsky and Kiki Smith.” References from Shakespeare to John Guare in theatre, Hawthorne to Orwell in literature, Holbein to Dali in art, and Plato to Descartes in philosophy are called into play in the show, all questioning the nature of truth and knowledge, and how we value them.

Progress of the show’s installation will be open to the public on Thursday, March 13 from 11:00 to 7:00 p.m. Gallery hours are Tuesday & Wednesday, 11 – 5; Thursday 11 – 7; Saturday and Sunday 2 – 5 p.m. The artist will present a **University Hour Lecture** on Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in the Student Center. An **April Fools’ Reception** with the artist will be held on Tuesday, April 1 from 5 – 7 p.m.; visitors are invited to join in the medieval carnival atmosphere and participate with their own or provided costumes.

*Fools’ Progress* has been supported by grants from the Artists’ Resource Trust, a fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation and the Ludwig Vogelstein Foundation.

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Eastern Connecticut State University is the state’s public liberal arts university,  
located in Willimantic, Connecticut.