



Eastern Connecticut State University

NEWS

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Contact: Dwight Bachman

Public Relations Officer

(860) 465-5114 or Bachman@easternct.edu

Edward Osborn, Director of University Relations

(860) 465-5043 or Osborne@easternct.edu

Erin Dutton, Public Relations Assistant

Akus Gallery to Host *Transfiguration*

Willimantic, Conn.—The Akus Gallery at Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) will host *Transfiguration*, an exhibition focusing on the use of the figure as a subject for visual art. The exhibition will run from Thursday, Oct. 14 to Thursday, Dec. 16 in the Akus Gallery, located in Shafer Hall at the corner of Windham and Valley streets. On Thursday, Nov. 18 at 3 p.m. the gallery will host a panel discussion with the artists, followed by a reception beginning at 5 p.m.

The figure has been termed the oldest subject in visual art. The earliest known images of the [human](#) figure date back to 17,000 years ago on the walls of the Lascaux caves. Because the figure-image is essentially the same form as its artist-maker, it can offer a far wider range of form and meaning than other subjects in art.

The six artists featured in *Transfiguration* are well acquainted with the figure as a required subject for their profession, and understand the figure's rich capacity for expression. Through their varied images in drawings, paintings, photographs, and sculpture, these artists express memories, desires, energy, ecstasy, humility, ethos and pathos in their subject. Sculptor Eda Easton explores the psyche and the physical body as they affect one another; painter and draughtswoman Laura Elkins uses self portraits to present the figure as

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a metaphor for political battlegrounds; the *Silhouette* series of photographs by Joni Sternbach lures us with its apparent formal familiarity before we realize that we, and the images, have been tampered with. Sculptor Mary-Beth Gregg creates preternatural figures that embody emotion and instinct with such honesty that the viewer feels both shock and sympathy; Tim Wilson's extraordinary paintings visit an altered childhood story land populated by abandoned toys; and painter Luigino Valentin artfully selects ordinary images from daily life to recreate artificial figures and scenes that are suddenly not at all familiar.

For additional information regarding the *Transfiguration* exhibit and gallery hours, please visit the gallery website at www.easternct.edu/depts/akus/

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Eastern Connecticut State University is part of the Connecticut State University (CSU) System and is the state's public liberal arts university. Eastern serves more than 5,000 students each year on its Willimantic campus.