



Eastern Connecticut State University

NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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Eastern's Akus Gallery to Present Nicole Awai: Backwards and Forwards

Willimantic, Conn. – Beginning Jan. 31 and running until March 6, the Julian Akus Gallery at Eastern Connecticut State University will present the exhibit, “Nicole Awai: Backwards and Forwards.” The exhibition, curated by Marion Callis, features selected drawings, paintings, photographs and sculpture that span a 10-year period of the artist’s career. Awai will give a gallery talk on Feb. 21 at 3 p.m. A reception follows at 5 p.m.

Awai has exhibited nationally and internationally in North America, Europe, the Caribbean and Asia. A multimedia artist and native of Port of Spain, Trinidad. She attracted the attention of the art world in 2000 in the landmark exhibition, “Greater New York” at P.S.1, and at the Studio Museum in Harlem, where she was artist-in-residence. She has served as artist-in-residence or visiting artist at more than a dozen centers, universities and museums including the John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan, WI; the Caribbean Contemporary Arts in Trinidad; and the Art Center of South Florida in Miami Beach.

Awai’s work was most recently featured in the exhibitions “d’Asie d’Afrique” at Artist Commune in Kowloon, Hong Kong, and “Infinite Island” at the Brooklyn Museum of Art.

Awai's work combines traditional West Indian fetish imagery with contemporary pop images to create uniquely jaundiced, yet witty views of race, gender, culture and identity.

Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays; 1 to 7 p.m. Thursday; and 2 to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. The gallery is closed Mondays and Fridays. For more information regarding the Nicole Awai exhibition, please call Roxanne Deojay, Akus Gallery registrar, at (860) 465-4659 or visit the web site: <http://www.easternct.edu/depts/akus>

Photo Captions

Nicole Awai
Wigged, 2000
painted ceramic
(dims 11" high x 6" wide x 7" deep)

Nicole Awai
Specimen from Local Ephemera: Drab Hanger, 2007
graphite, acrylic paint, nail-polish and glitter on paper
38" x 50"

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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. ECSU serves more than 5,000 students each year on its Willimantic campus.

It is the policy of Eastern Connecticut State University to ensure equal access to its events. If you are an individual with a disability and will need accommodations for this event, please contact the Office of University Relations at (860) 465-5735.

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