



THE ART GALLERY
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

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**THE ART GALLERY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND PRESENTS
METAXU: 2014 MFA THESIS EXHIBITION**

Art Showcase Culmination of Rigorous Process for MFA Candidates

COLLEGE PARK, Md.—From May 1-23, 2014, The Art Gallery at the University of Maryland (UMD) presents *METAXU: 2013 MFA Thesis Exhibition*, a group installation featuring new and engaging work by two Department of Art MFA candidates: **Lauren Frances Evans** and **Lauren Shea Little**. This exhibition demonstrates the high-caliber professional arts training that UMD's Department of Art offers graduate students, within the context of a great liberal arts university.

"Lauren and Lauren tackle deep philosophical and aesthetic issues in this installation," says The Art Gallery's director John Shipman. He adds, "The artists carefully examine ideas of embodiment and the relationship of interlocking 'betweens,' both in their individual modes of expression as well as in a combined space." This exhibition continues The Art Gallery's longstanding commitment of highlighting forward-thinking and thought-provoking art that engages viewers and promotes dialogue within and beyond a gallery setting.

An opening reception for *METAXU: 2014 MFA Thesis Exhibition* will be held on Thursday, May 1st, from 5:00-7:00pm at The Art Gallery, 2202 Art-Sociology Bldg., College Park, MD 20742. For more information, please call 301.405.2763 or e-mail theartgallery@umd.edu.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Lauren Frances Evans' work focuses on the existential understanding of holes, which is rooted in an ontological (and thus pre-sexual) desire to fill voids. Inverting the boundaries between 'what is' and 'what is not,' Evans' work draws attention to the void of longing. The sculptural process of casting finds its significance here: the body simultaneously functions as mold and molded, container and contained, while shifts in scale work to further this ambiguity.

Lauren Shea Little's work shows a deep interest in the intersection of phenomenology, the study of visible sound and vibration (also known as cymatics), and the tradition of self-portraiture. While all three subjects are laden with their own discourse on images, essence, and consciousness, Little draws from them to explore notions of how the immaterial can be translated into material.

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EXHIBITION SUPPORT

The Art Gallery thanks the Department of Art for their support. Financial contributions provided by the Maryland State Arts Council with direct support from by the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional financial support from the University of Maryland provided by College of Arts and Humanities, The Graduate School, and Office of Student Financial Aid/Federal Work-Study Program (FWS). The gallery is also supported in part by other national, state, and local arts agencies, foundations, corporations, and private donors. The Art Gallery thanks intern Justin Hutton for his significant research and writing contributions to this news release.

THE ART GALLERY

Founded in 1955, The Art Gallery is University of Maryland's premier space for exhibiting cutting-edge visual and media arts. Through the display of significant and challenging contemporary art—with an emphasis on emerging and mid-career artists—The Art Gallery commits itself to the further cultivation of new, innovative, and education-minded scholarship. In order to share its works with a broad public, The Art Gallery also organizes thematic and collection-based exhibitions that travel to museums nationwide.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Art Gallery is located at University of Maryland, 2202 Art-Sociology Building, College Park, Maryland. Gallery hours: Monday through Friday, 11:00am to 4:00pm. The gallery is open on select Saturdays, and closed on Sunday, major holidays and on days that home sports events are held at Capital One Field at Byrd Stadium. Admission is free and open to the public. Office hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm. The office is closed on Saturday and Sunday, and major holidays. For general information, please call 301.405.2763 or visit the website at www.artgallery.umd.edu.