



CITY OF SYRACUSE PUBLIC ART APPLICATION

All applications for the installation of public art will be evaluated based on the seven (7) criteria enumerated below. It is understood that some criteria will have more relevance than others depending on the proposed artwork. This will be taken into account and the criteria weighted accordingly.

- Artistic merit and quality, as substantiated by an artist's past history of exhibitions or sales, awards or other recognition, or an outstanding first work, as well as the inherent quality in terms of timelessness of vision, design, aesthetics and excellence;
- Intentionality of the artist, concerning the meaning and proposed or desired effect of the work as Public Art upon the viewing public, as rationalized and elaborated upon in the project description;
- Local significance, creating a sense of excitement in public spaces and presenting fresh ways of seeing the community and city reflected;
- Representation of styles and tastes within the public art collection, acknowledging existing works in the public art collection and striving for diversity of style, scale and media;
- Safety and durability, including the ability of the artwork to withstand weather conditions, as well as structural and surface integrity;
- Unrestricted public viewing, primarily the opportunity for public access, but also suitability for public participation, social and political attitudes, and functional considerations; and
- Installation and maintenance of the work, from practicality of fabrication and transport, to installation and long-term care.

PROJECT NAME: *AKIN: Works by Keren Shavit & Eva Marie Rødbrø*

PROJECT TYPE: Temporary installation, February 8 -March 8, 2018.

LOCATION: Urban Video Project, Everson Museum of Art (permissions have been granted)

ARTWORK TYPE: Looping video projection

ARTWORK DESCRIPTION:

Urban Video Project (UVP) and parent organization, Light Work, are applying for approval of the exhibition of recent work by **Keren Shavit** and **Eva Marie Rødbrø** at their Everson Museum architectural projection venue during the months of February and March.

The title of the exhibition and related event, *Akin*, points to certain parallels in Rødbrø's and Shavit's artistic process. Both artists have work that involves them embedding and establishing relationships within existing family structures and tightly knit subcultures. Their work is akin and involves kinship.

But *Akin* is also meant to point to the activated but ambivalent relationships that arise between documentarian, "subject," and audience when the work is viewed. As audience members, we

are dropped into lifeworlds that read as both “real” and surreal, as familiar and strange. Both artists present us with a social-scape in which we are unsure of our bearings, uneasy — not so much the question “should we be looking?” but one of *how* should we be looking. Abjection and beauty intermingle. Conflicting social emotions of recognition, rejection, misunderstanding, and intimacy arise. Questions of belonging and identification get messy. Should we be looking on with genuine wonder, detached irony, moral judgement, pity, or empathy? And for whom? Who is our kin?

Rødbro and Shavit will be present for an indoor screening of their work and Q&A with the audience on Thursday, March 8 at 6:30pm in Watson Theater at Light Work on the SU campus. A reception will follow. This event is FREE & OPEN to the public.

Eva Marie Rødbro:

Tropistic Creatures

2018

Runtime: 9:36 mins.

Eva Marie Rødbro is currently working on a short piece for UVP that will continue the work she began with one family in rural Texas in her award-winning 2010 documentary *I Touched Her Legs*. *I Touched Her Legs* is an extraordinary portrait of a group of Southern teens hanging out in cars, rooms, and neighborhood yards in humid pool-party weather; it features a deft and skillful montage in which animals, insects children and adolescents all inhabit an environment easily and warmly shared.

For the new piece, Rødbro has rejoined the family at the center of *I Touched Her Legs*, with whom she has maintained contact in the interim, reuniting with them in their new home in Colorado. Rødbro describes *I Hope to See You Before I Die* as “a harsh and dreamy story of a young girl’s battle with poverty and the mercurial power of her own longing heart. Through Betty we experience a tight family clan of children born by children born by children. Blood is thicker than anything, and the constellation of the family is the frame of the world.”

For the UVP exhibition, Rødbro has made a special edit from her new project, an abstraction on Betty’s inner dreams and nightly ventures.

Keren Shavit

rABBiTS

2016

Runtime: 7:23 mins.

A reality show for rabbits made by aliens -- in this surreal documentary piece, a group of men in long white coats congregate at the local community center basketball gym for the evaluation of 144 rabbits. The judges are inscrutable but collegial, breaking from their brusque examinations and careful note taking to chat and eat potato fritters. The rabbits are fearful but placid. The proceedings are scored to an oddly ominous, hypnotic dance track, lending a sinister undercurrent that never quite resolves into outright

cruelty. In the end, the rabbit scoring highest in all categories is declared the lucky winner of a massive trophy adorned with a golden bunny on top.

LINK TO VIEW WORK:

***Tropistic Creatures* by Eva Marie Rødbro**

<https://vimeo.com/254566443/6bd46ca9b0>

***rABBiTS* by Keren Shavit:**

<https://vimeo.com/50910799>

ARTISTS' BIOGRAPHIES:

Eva Marie Rødbro is a photographer and award-winning maker of short films that explore youth culture in a variety of contexts. She was educated at art academies in Denmark and the Netherlands. Her most recent short *We Chose the Milky Way* (2015) screened at the 2016 International Film Festival of Rotterdam and at the 2016 Ann Arbor Film Festival, where it won the George Manupelli Founder's Spirit Award. Her 2010 short, *I Touched Her Legs*, won The Barbara Aronofsky Latham Award for Emerging Experimental Video Artist at the 49th Ann Arbor Film Festival, Most Inventive Film Award at the Odense Film Festival 2011, and was nominated for the NEW:VISION award CPH:DOX 2010.

Keren Shavit is a mixed media artist and curator, living and working in Brooklyn, New York. She graduated from Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Jerusalem and was a selected participant in the documentary workshop at the Leon Schiller National Higher School of Film in Lodz and Sam Spiegel Film School, Jerusalem. Shavit has exhibited, published and screened her work in Israel, New York, Poland, Germany, China, Norway, and Iceland.

APPLICANT:

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