

CORCORAN

GALLERY OF ART • COLLEGE of ART + DESIGN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE CORCORAN CELEBRATES *ELLEN HARVEY: THE ALIEN'S GUIDE TO THE RUINS OF WASHINGTON, D.C. WITH SPECIAL PROGRAMMING*
Latest "NOW at the Corcoran" exhibition on view July 3—October 6, 2013

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Beginning this July, the Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design will present a series of cultural programs inspired by *Ellen Harvey: The Alien's Guide to the Ruins of Washington, D.C.* Harvey's new, site-specific project, the latest in the gallery's NOW exhibition series, envisions the capital city in a far-distant future.

Human civilization having long since come to an end, the earth is populated now only by ruins, ripe for archeological interpretation by visitors from another planet. Attempting to make sense of what they find, Harvey's aliens mine the potential of Washington, D.C.—one of the greatest neoclassical cities—as a tourist destination. *The Alien's Guide to the Ruins of Washington, D.C.* is the result.

The Corcoran will offer special programming and events tied to the exhibition, giving visitors and residents alike the opportunity to view the city through alien eyes. Guests will have the chance to visit the exhibition for free on Saturdays between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend as part of the Corcoran's [Free Summer Saturdays promotion](#). For information about the exhibition, visit <http://www.corcoran.org/exhibitions/aliensguide>.



FREE SUMMER SATURDAYS

An Alien's Perspective on Art
Saturday, July 6
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Free; No registration required <https://getinvolved.corcoran.org/aliens-perspective>

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Take a look at some of the Corcoran's abstract works of art and tell us what you think the artists who created them wanted to convey. Then create your own version to take home.

Build-An-Alien Collaborative Project

Saturday, July 13

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Free; Pre-registration available at <http://buildanalien.eventbrite.com/>

A drop-in collaborative art-making project giving participants the opportunity to imagine what artist Ellen Harvey's alien visitors might look like. Using paper, clay, and other materials, create one part to contribute to a whole alien form.

Alien's Guide Scavenger Hunt

Wednesday, July 24

5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

\$10 members, \$15 public; Pre-registration required

View the sites that intrigued Ellen Harvey's alien visitors with an interactive scavenger hunt through some of DC's most notable landmarks. Choose from two separate hunts, including one designed with families in mind, and form a team to take on the challenge. Post pictures and engage with the Corcoran's social media feeds to earn points and win prizes. The exhibition will be open for viewing before and after the hunt.

Neighborhood Mapping Workshop

Saturday, July 20

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Free; Pre-registration required

Available at <http://corcoranneighborhoodmapping.eventbrite.com/>

How will others see our communities in the future? What will your neighborhood look like in 10,000 years? Through the process of tracing aerial maps of their own neighborhoods, participants will use paint and canvas to reinterpret their neighborhoods and express what is important to them through color and symbolism.

The Alien's Guide Short Film Festival

Thursday, August 1

7 p.m.

Free; Pre-registration encouraged and available at <http://aliensguidefilmfest.eventbrite.com/>

Enjoy an evening of short films made by local filmmakers inspired by the exhibition *Ellen Harvey: The Alien's Guide to the Ruins of Washington, D.C.*

Community Pop-Up Gallery

Saturday, August 24

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Free, Pre-registration available at <http://communitypop-upgallery.eventbrite.com/>

Explore how we interpret our own history through unfamiliar objects of our past. During this one-day Community Pop-Up Gallery inspired by *Ellen Harvey: The Alien's Guide to the Ruins of Washington, D.C.*, participants bring unusual antiques, family heirlooms, and collected objects from the past for a temporary display in our north Atrium. Participants and visitors discuss and examine the objects, share stories about what they were used for, and reflect on what the objects might tell us about society at the time.

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FILM & PERFORMANCE

The Alien's Guide Short Film Festival

Thursday, August 1

7 p.m.

Free, Pre-registration encouraged and available at <http://aliensguidefilmfest.eventbrite.com/>

Local filmmakers are invited to submit short films (no longer than 4 minutes) inspired by the exhibition *Ellen Harvey: The Alien's Guide to the Ruins of Washington, D.C.*

LECTURES & GALLERY TALKS

Visiting Artist: Ellen Harvey

Lecture

Wednesday, September 25

7 p.m.

\$10 Corcoran Members, \$12 Public, Pre-registration encouraged

Join for an intimate evening with the artist as she talks about her commissioned, site-specific project, *Ellen Harvey: The Alien's Guide to the Ruins of Washington, D.C.*, the latest in the Gallery's NOW series.

Ellen Harvey's art explores the pull of desire, the shocks of reality, and the histories embedded in ways of seeing. In work that ranges from painting and drawing to installation and public interventions, Harvey probes the gap between the imagined and actual—art's promise of transcendence versus its reality. Well-known projects include *New York Beautification Project* (1999-2001) for which she illegally "tagged" New York City streets with small, Hudson River-style landscape paintings, and *A Whitney for the Whitney* (2003), for which she laboriously repainted every work in the collection of the Whitney Museum of American Art, creating a purposefully inadequate stand-in for the museum.

Before or after the lecture, tour through the exhibition and take part in [Corcoran Uncorked](#), the Gallery's weekly late-night evening.

NOW AT THE
CORCORAN

ABOUT NOW AT THE CORCORAN

NOW at the Corcoran is the Gallery's contemporary art program dedicated to exhibitions and performances by emerging and mid-career artists. It highlights work that addresses issues central to local, national, and global communities of Washington, D.C.

VISITOR INFORMATION

The Corcoran's hours of operation are as follows: Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; closed Monday and Tuesday. Admission to *Ellen Harvey: The Alien's Guide to the Ruins of Washington, D.C.* is \$10 for adults, and \$8 for seniors (62+) and students (with valid ID). Free: children 12 and under, active duty military (with ID), Corcoran Members. From May 25 – August 31, admission is FREE as part of Free Summer Saturdays. More information: <http://www.corcoran.org/freesummersaturdays>

MEMBERSHIP

Corcoran Gallery of Art membership offers special access to the Corcoran's renowned collection, temporary exhibitions, lectures, films, concerts and an array of social events. Members also receive valuable discounts at the Corcoran Shop, Todd Gray's Muse at the Corcoran, and the Corcoran College of Art + Design. Corcoran Members may visit *Ellen*

Harvey: *The Alien's Guide to the Ruins of Washington, D.C.* an unlimited number of times for free. For more information, contact the Membership office at (202) 639-1753, membership@corcoran.org or online at www.corcoran.org/membership.

ABOUT THE CORCORAN

Established in 1869, the **Corcoran Gallery of Art** was one of America's first museums of art—dedicated, in the words of founder William Wilson Corcoran, to “encouraging American genius.” Today it is Washington, D.C.'s largest nonfederal art museum, known internationally for its distinguished collection of historical and modern American art as well as contemporary art, photography, European painting, sculpture, and the decorative arts. A dynamic schedule of special exhibitions complements a range of educational programming, which together enrich the perspectives of the visiting public, support the local arts community, and encourage thoughtful interpretation of today's most compelling social issues. **The Corcoran College of Art + Design** was founded as a school of art in 1890 and stands as Washington's only four-year accredited college of art and design. The College is one of the few in the nation whose educational model includes an integral relationship with a museum, fostering the talent of the next generation of artists. For more information about the **Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design**, visit www.corcoran.org.



Image:

Page one: Ellen Harvey, *Design for a Neo-Classical Alien Space Ship for the Corcoran*, 2013. Digitally manipulated watercolor, 16 x 20 in. Courtesy of the artists and Locks Gallery, Philadelphia. Photo: Ellen Harvey.

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