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For Immediate Release

Spaces of Uncertainty
March 21 - April 30, 2019

This spring the Flinn Gallery presents *Spaces of Uncertainty*, featuring the works of painter **Valeri Larko** and photographer **Linda Kuehne**. Immersing themselves, and by extension the viewer, in landscapes of derelict graffiti-covered buildings, shuttered storefronts and desolate *terrains vagues*, the artists' meticulously crafted images expose the unexpected pathos and poetic beauty of these overlooked and forgotten spaces. In our highly programmed built environments, where every site must fulfill a designated role, these obsolete structures and residual lots might appear devoid of meaning, abandoned, even dangerous. But by forcing us to look more closely, the artists expose fleeting histories and hidden narratives, revealing spaces that are in fact brimming with life and potential. The exhibition runs from March 21 through April 30, 2019 and is curated by Isabelle Schiavi.

VALERI LARKO's richly detailed oil paintings portray the decaying infrastructure, disused industrial waterways, neglected graffiti-strewn neighborhoods and vacant lots of NYC's urban fringe. Her paintings show how these marginal sites are never truly abandoned or static. She captures these spaces in transition, as they become recolonized by nature, by graffiti, or temporarily occupied by individuals and activities that have no other place to go in our purpose-built urban environments. Larko paints "en plein air" in all seasons, often revisiting the same site for weeks or months until her painting is completed. She says, "The process of painting on location over a long period of time is crucial to my working method because it allows me to form a deeper connection to a particular place through careful observation and personal interaction with the people I meet there. This makes the method by which I work as important as the final painting. Each site has its own story to tell and through patient observation I bring that story to life and capture the visual poetry of those places." Larko has been exhibited widely and is the recipient of numerous grants and awards. In 2016 she was the subject of a large solo exhibition at the Bronx Museum entitled *Bronx Focus*.

Photographer **LINDA KUEHNE** is also fascinated by transience in the built environment, although her focus is more specifically on the suburbs, where she documents the deteriorating commercial sprawl and disused retail structures of the 50s and 60s. For the last ten years she has photographed empty convenience stores, abandoned fast food restaurants and vacant storefronts, documenting what she sees as the end of an era of American suburban expansion. Her images reveal the banal homogeneity of our nation's decaying commercial architecture, whether in the Northeast where she now lives or out West where she regularly spends long stretches of time. Yet with her lens she also captures fleeting hints of the sublime and striking abstract compositions in even the most mundane of subject matters. Kuehne has exhibited widely in the Northeast, with recent solo shows at the Katonah Museum of Art and the Silvermine Arts Center, CT.

RELATED EVENTS

Thursday, March 21, 6-8pm - **Opening Reception**

Saturday, March 23 at 2pm - **Artist Talk with Linda Kuehne and Valeri Larko**

Sunday, March 24 - Tax free Day

Friday, March 29, 6 - 7:15pm - **Art Lounge Extended Gallery Hours** prior to the **Friends Friday Film *Red Desert*** by Michelangelo Antonioni at 7:30 in the Cole Auditorium.

Wednesday, April 10, 7pm - The second event in the Flinn 90th Anniversary Lecture series, "***The Artist as Writer***", featuring **Brian Catling**, artist, author and Professor Emeritus, Oxford University, will take place in the Cole Auditorium, preceded by a reception in the gallery at 5:30pm.

For more information: <http://flinngallery.com/spaces-of-uncertainty/>

The Flinn Gallery, sponsored by the Friends of the Greenwich Library, is located on the second floor of the Library's main branch at 101 Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830. Gallery hours are Monday to Saturday 10am-5pm, Thursday until 8pm and Sunday 1-5pm.

For more information, please call the gallery: 203.622.7967 or visit the website: www.flinngallery.com