

PRESS RELEASE

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Hollow Earth: Stories from the Underground by John O'Donnell
Opening and Book Launch at the Ives Gallery



John O'Donnell, *Hollow Earth: Maps*. Unique on kitikata paper.

WHAT: ***Hollow Earth: Stories from the Underground by John O'Donnell***
On display are prints and drawings created by John O'Donnell about invented realms underneath the earth. There will also be a book launch for the recently released independent publication *Hollow Earth*, a book documenting this series of work.

Free limited edition prints to the first 12 attendees of the opening reception!

WHEN: Exhibition Dates: December 9, 2017 – January 27, 2018
Opening & Book Launch: **Wednesday, December 13, 6 –7:30 pm**
Gallery & Library Hours: Monday – Thursday, 10 am – 8 pm;
Friday & Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm; Sunday Closed

WHERE: Ives Gallery, New Haven Free Public Library, 133 Elm Street, New Haven, CT 06510

EVENT: A free opening reception and book launch Wednesday, December 13, 6 –7:30 pm in the Ives Gallery.

About the Exhibit:

Hollow Earth: Stories from the Underground is an exhibition of prints and drawings depicting invented realms underneath the earth's surface and featured in the recently released independent publication *Hollow Earth*. The Hollow Earth hypothesis suggests that the planet earth contains large empty interiors and a variety of subterranean realms. It has been the topic of not only scientific inquiry since the 17th century but is also a concept that has been investigated

within religion, science, science fiction, literature, folklore, mythology and conspiracy theory contexts, in turn generating a substantial amount of writing in response to the idea.

Part of the inspiration for this series comes from a mysterious manuscript within the collection of the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library at Yale University. The Voynich manuscript, a mysterious illustrated codex using an unknown writing system dating to the 15th or 16th century, inspires the aesthetic of the Hollow Earth Series. Displaying a scientific interpretation of an alternative world, the illustrations are curious images that depict what appear to be celestial bodies, biological phenomena, botany and other mysterious imagery.

About the Artist:

John O'Donnell is a multidisciplinary artist and performer. His practice as a new media artist addresses artifice, awkward transitions, humor, gender, and media representation through video, installation and performance. As a printmaker, he uses a variety of traditional and experimental techniques to address formal and conceptual topics pertaining to illusion, construction, failure and nostalgia. He is an assistant professor of printmaking at the University of Connecticut. He has created performance pieces for the Museum of New Art (Detroit); Proof Gallery (Boston); FluxSpace (Philadelphia); Glass Box, (Seattle); and SOHO20 Gallery (New York). He has exhibited his prints at the Print Center (Philadelphia); the International Print Center (New York); and Seoul Museum of Art (South Korea). His videos have been exhibited at the Chelsea Art Museum (New York) and at film festivals in Boston, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Atlanta, Moscow and Saint Petersburg, Russia.

Learn more about John O'Donnell at www.johnodonnellprojects.com.

About the Ives Gallery

The Ives Gallery is proud to exhibit work that reflects and celebrates the rich diversity of greater New Haven's cultural community.

About the New Haven Free Public Library

The New Haven Free Public Library system includes the Ives Memorial Library on the historic New Haven Green, the 24/7 online services of our digital branch, the ReadMobile – bringing books to early childhood learning centers, and four neighborhood libraries: Fair Haven, Mitchell, Wilson and Stetson. The Library welcomes more than 500,000 library patrons through its doors each year across its five locations.

The New Haven Free Public Library's mission is to ensure all New Haven's citizens have full and unlimited access to information and knowledge so that they may meet the needs of daily living, have opportunities for self-education, and participate successfully in self-government.

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