

THE NEW GALLERY

PRESS RELEASE

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Nature Inspired Art Exhibit Comes to the Natural State

Artist Mike Marks explores an ever-changing landscape through the medium of printmaking, searching for beauty amidst the shifting boundaries of the wilderness.

Little Rock, AR - The New Gallery is pleased to announce a solo printmaking exhibition by Minnesota artist Mike Marks. The exhibit will run from September 6 – September 28, 2019 with an opening reception on September 6 from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. The opening reception is part of SoMa Little Rock's new monthly event, SoMa After Dark.

Mike Marks' art reflects processes of change and loss within the natural landscape. "I view the landscape as a reservoir of mark-making, from the geological to the man made. I'm interested in how nature is represented, the memory of place, and how history is ascribed into environment," says Marks of his art. Drawing inspiration from his personal experiences in natural and built environments, the resulting art works often depict fragments of landscapes overlapping one another.

According to the National Wildlife Federation, much of the remaining wildlife habitats in the U.S have been fragmented into smaller, disconnected pieces by roads and developments. The experience of an increasingly fragmented landscape leads to defining spaces more by their pieces and remains. Marks' intent in his art is to draw parallels to the ways nature and wilderness are constantly being reconstructed by forces ranging from the geological to the man-made, and how these shifting boundaries make us redefine what exactly wilderness is.

"The land around us is as curated a surface as any, and I hope that in making my work I can draw out the beauty I find, even in the marks that mar the places around us," says Marks.

Mark's artistic approach uses the physical nature of printmaking as a vehicle for the language and mechanisms that reshape the environment around us. This is further emphasized in the surfaces of his prints, which are created using a wide variety of printmaking techniques such as collagraph plates, stencils, embossment, chin-colle, relief, and intaglio. These approaches allow Marks to use the printed multiple to create unique, one-of-a-kind prints. Most recently, Marks has begun working with printmaking plates that break down or disappear entirely during the printing process as a way of reflecting irreversible change and loss.

The opening reception for Mike Marks' exhibit on September 6 is free to attend and light refreshments will be available. The New Gallery will also be open for 2nd Friday Art Night on September 13 from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Free parking is available on the street outside the Gallery. Please contact The New Gallery by email at info@thenewgallery.net for questions.

About Mike Marks:

Mike Marks (www.mikemarksarts.com) holds a BFA in Drawing from the Cleveland Institute of Art, and an MFA in Printmaking from the University of Delaware. His prints and drawings have been exhibited both nationally and internationally. He currently lives and works out of Minneapolis, Minnesota, actively creating his prints at the Highpoint Center for Printmaking.

About The New Gallery:

The New Gallery is a contemporary art gallery featuring art made by emerging and mid-career artists. Located in SoMa, The New Gallery shows new art exhibits every month and is regularly open on Saturdays from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., with additional hours by appointment.

The gallery is owned and operated by David and Teresa Carlisle. David and Teresa are both Master of Fine Arts graduates from the University of Delaware with a combined 20+ years of experience in the art field.

To learn more about The New Gallery visit www.thenewgallery.net, [like us on Facebook](#), or [follow us on Instagram](#) at [@thenewgalleryandstudio](#).

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