

PRESS RELEASE

University of Maine Museum of Art

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Contact: Kathryn Jovanelli
207.561.3350
kj@umit.maine.edu
www.umma.umaine.edu
High resolution digital images available upon request

UMaine MUSEUM OF ART ANNOUNCES WINTER EXHIBITION

I PUT A SPELL ON YOU: Brett Day Windham

January 13 - March 24, 2012

Sculptor and installation artist Brett Day Windham transforms a UMMA gallery with works that evoke the mythic and magical. In *Sleepwalking Circus* (pictured) the artist has hand-constructed a red and white carnival tent that serves as an immersive environment in which to view her stop-motion video. This portrays the artist as alchemist in the theatrical world of the studio. Two freestanding sculptures, *Floating Harlequin* and *Braided Ellegua* serve as gatekeepers to the tent. The artist interprets the dramatic and nimble harlequin - a character often depicted throughout the history of art - as a ghostlike form with painted black and white diamond patterns. The mysterious draped form hovers slightly above the floor, an arrow extending through its head. *Braided Ellegua* is constructed out of colored hair extensions that Windham has meticulously braided and stitched together. The mystifying and playful Ellegua, a deity viewed as a trickster throughout African diasporic faiths, resonates with the artist. *Rosary* is a garland-like strand created from objects found by the artist over a three-year period during walks to her various studios. Self-imposed written rules define the process by which she collects the sometimes familiar, sometimes confounding, urban discards.

Brett Day Windham received her BA from Hampshire College and MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design. She lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

Admission to the Museum is FREE in 2012 thanks to Machias Savings Bank in honor of Ted Leonard.

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BRETT DAY WINDHAM (American, born Britain 1977)
Sleepwalking Circus, 2010
Mixed media installation
Dimensions variable

Courtesy of the artist



Free Admission for 2012 is generously provided by Machias Savings Bank in memory of Ted Leonard.