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***JOSEPHINE DURKIN: MAPS, FLORA AND HIGHLIGHTERS* opens Saturday May 9 at Erin Cluley Gallery**

[Dallas, Texas – April 15, 2015] **ERIN CLULEY GALLERY** is pleased to announce its first exhibition with Greenville, Texas based artist **JOSEPHINE DURKIN** May 9 through June 6, 2015. The exhibition will open with a reception for the artist on Saturday May 9 from 6:00-8:00 pm.

In her first exhibition at Erin Cluley Gallery, Josephine Durkin presents new works from ongoing series of wall sculptures and sewn paper collages in conjunction with a large site-specific installation in the gallery. Through an exchange of visual excerpts between individual artworks, Durkin creates a cycle of dialogue using reconstruction, reproduction, abstraction and mapping.

In *Highlighters*, Durkin's new and growing series of wall sculptures, works are made from pigmented cast plastic, paint and pastels. Durkin continues her exploration of materials and investigation of process in these works. Debris and residue from the artist's studio becomes the very blueprint for the next object to be manufactured; one body of work feeding the next in a cyclical motion of ideas and experimentation. By taking the refuse in her studio that might otherwise be discarded, Durkin elevates the status of the materials creating a cast object serving as a blank canvas. "Highlighted" areas are then painted onto the cast plastic object resulting in a harmonious merging of abstract painting over a realistic reproduction of recognizable materials.

Alongside the cast plastic sculptures, Durkin has created a series of *Flora* collages beautifully crafted of torn and sewn paper. Like plant life indigenous to a region, Durkin's *Flora* collages function as a pictorial journal of the experiments in her studio. The "studio residue" is photographed and printed onto heavyweight paper before it is torn, paired with painted and Color-Aid paper and sewn into bloom-like forms. Using a similar approach as the sculptural work, the artist continues to blend abstraction and realism.

Durkin also continues to maintain a dedicated practice to large-scale site-specific installation and kinetic sculptural works. She will present a new site-specific work made explicitly for Erin Cluley Gallery. Strips of collage will be fastened to the wall creating a loose, gestural line drawing lying over abstracted, color-block areas painted directly onto the wall. The installation will bring together and address the concepts in line with all of the works featured in *Maps, Flora and Highlighters*.

Josephine Durkin holds a BFA in Sculpture from Virginia Commonwealth University and an MFA in Sculpture from Yale University. She has also studied at the Corcoran School of Art in Washington D.C. and the Lorenzo de Medici School of Art in Florence, Italy. Before joining the Department of Art at Texas A&M University - Commerce, she taught drawing and woodworking classes in Virginia and Connecticut and then worked as a sculptor and set designer at The Puppet Company in Glen Echo, Maryland. While at Yale, she worked with Natalie Jeremijenko and members of the Yale Engineering Department on Jeremijenko's Feral Robotic Dog Project.

Josephine is an Associate Professor of Art at Texas A&M University – Commerce, where she teaches 3-D Design and Sculpture. She has shown extensively in the United States including solo exhibitions at Ulrich Museum of Art in Wichita Kansas, Lawndale Art Center in Houston and Dallas Contemporary.

About Erin Cluley Gallery

Erin Cluley Gallery is a contemporary art gallery representing emerging and mid-career artists from Dallas and the United States. The gallery presents a provocative program of artists working in both traditional and alternative forms including painting, sculpture, new media, photography, sculptural installation and public intervention.

The 2000 square foot space is joining a creative movement in the West Dallas/ Trinity Groves development at the foot of the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge in West Dallas.

In conjunction with mounting exhibitions inside the gallery space, Erin Cluley Gallery will maintain a focus on presenting public projects conceptualized by its artists. Negotiating projects on the artists' behalf, the gallery will make this an ongoing component of the exhibition program and an impactful contribution to public art intervention in Dallas.

Erin Cluley served as the Director of Exhibitions at Dallas Contemporary from 2009 - 2014 where she worked on the production of exhibitions by Zoe Crosher, Gabriel Dawe, K8 Hardy, Georg Herold, Aaron Parazette, Richard Phillips, John Pomara, Rob Pruitt, Jennifer Rubell, Julian Schnabel, Juergen Teller, Walter Van Beirendonck, Inez & Vinoodh, Erwin Wurm and others. Erin Cluley also worked with artists and their crews producing murals in Dallas by Shepard Fairey, Soner, JMR, Sourgrapes, Faile, Michael Sieben and JR.

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