

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Dana Lynn Louis to open *As Above, So Below* at San Juan Islands Museum of Art**

**Dana Lynn Louis: *As Above, So Below***

Installation: January 2 – 15, 2016

Open: January 23 – April 4, 2016

FRIDAY HARBOR, WA—The San Juan Islands Museum of Art (SJIMA) presents *As Above, So Below*, a site-specific installation by Portland-based artist Dana Lynn Louis, recipient of the 2016 Contemporary Northwest Art Award. Bonnie Laing-Malcolmson, Curator of Northwest Art at the Portland Art Museum states, “Creating spaces with intimate and large-scale drawings, light projections, and sculptural objects, [Louis] uses glass, light, and shadow to achieve a glitteringly magical environment.”

*As Above, So Below* includes four components: a floor-to-ceiling drawing on the glass of SJIMA’s Atrium Space; suspended glass and mixed-media sculptures; etched mirrors installed on the floor; and video projections. Experiential and multidisciplinary, the installation engages time and light, the changing shadows and reflections constructing a conversation with the materials of the Atrium Space and the environment of the region.

**Watch the artist create the site specific installation in the SJIMA Atrium Space January 2 to January 15, 2016. Opening January 23, 2016.**

For two decades Louis has maintained a rigorous studio practice that engages architectural space, glass, light and shadow among numerous other components. The results fluctuate between intimate, domestic-scaled pieces, to interdisciplinary performance collaborations, and large-scale public works that energize and alter one’s experience of their environment. Louis is conceptually inspired by the timeless and fascinating systems of the body, the natural and constructed worlds, and their interconnectedness. Louis’s recent installations are based in the act of drawing. Both two and three-dimensional components engage notions of breathing: the ability to foster the breath that it takes to physically move through life, both conceptually and spiritually.

Like much of her work in the past several years, *As Above, So Below* raises social and political concerns. For over a decade, Louis worked in West Africa helping to create the Ko-falen Cultural Center in Bamako, Mali. Her recent work is deeply informed by her loss of place in Mali due to the Mali Civil War, which began in 2012, and has been further

complicated by the presence and activities of multiple insurgent groups in the region ever since. Louis states that her installation at SJIMA will “seek to stimulate levity amongst our currently difficult human international landscape. My intention is to inspire hope and thus encourage action towards the betterment of our ability to live humanely together.”

Louis’ work is internationally exhibited and collected. Articles about her work have appeared in *Sculpture Magazine*, *Artweek* and the German periodical *Glashauss*, among other periodicals. Available documents include a book published by Lewis and Clark College in conjunction with her 2014 exhibition *Clearing*, and a catalogue from her 2009 exhibition, *Faith Suspended*, published by Marylhurst University. In addition to awards from the Regional Arts and Culture Council, The Ford Family Foundation, and The Oregon Arts Commission, Louis is a recipient of the Pollock Krasner Foundation grant.

### **Atrium Space:**

Atrium Space is devoted to site-specific installations exploring the nexus of art and the environment. Atrium Space is a steel and glass structure designed by architect Richard Hobbs. What makes the space unique is its lack of conformity to key tenets of museum practice: it has no UV protection nor systems to stabilize temperature and humidity. “Initially the space presented a considerable challenge,” states Ian Boyden, current curator of the Atrium Space, “but the challenge ultimately became a fortuitous asset, and inspired me to create an exhibition program unlike any other. Atrium Space is dedicated to site-specific installations that respond not just to the architecture, but to the dramatic environment within the space.” Boyden invites artists to submit site-specific proposals that explore how art functions as an ecological intermediary between humans and the environment.

### **Curator:**

*As Above, So Below* was curated by Ian Boyden, Executive Director of the San Juan Islands Museum of Art. With degrees in the History of Art from Wesleyan University and Yale University, Boyden’s exhibitions explore diverse subjects such as contemporary artists of the Northwest, Chinese calligraphy and scholars stones, and climate change. His work demonstrates ecological awareness, place-based thought, East Asian aesthetics, and intense interest in material relevance. For the past twenty years, Boyden has shared his time between the Northwest and China. As the Artist/Scholar-in-Residence at Suzhou University in 2011–12, he conducted research on Chinese inks and had a solo exhibition of paintings, books, and video installation at the contemporary wing of the I.M. Pei-designed Suzhou Museum in China.

### **San Juan Islands Museum of Art (SJIMA):**

SJIMA is one of the newest visual art museums in the Pacific Northwest, officially opening

the doors of its new facility in 2015. SJIMA champions artists, the arts, and arts programming because it champions authenticity of expression, place, and connections. Through its exhibitions, education, programs, and events, SJIMA establishes the San Juan Islands as a place of legacy making—legacies of art-inspired transformations, of expansion and wonder, and of support for our artists and arts communities.

**Hours:**

Friday, January 15 – Monday, April 4, 2016  
11am – 5pm, Friday – Monday

**Press Images:**

Publicity images for *As Above, So Below* available by request.

**Social Media:**

SJIMA can be found on:

[www.twitter.com @\\_SJIMA](http://www.twitter.com/@_SJIMA)

[www.facebook.com/SanJuanIslandsMuseumofArt](http://www.facebook.com/SanJuanIslandsMuseumofArt)

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