## **LEXINGTON ART LEAGUE** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## FEAST: Pleasure + Hunger + Ritual

An exhibition that explores food while enriching the soul and nourishing the mind

## LEXINGTON, KY - July 2, 2015

The **FEAST** exhibit that opened on May 22nd features art inspired by the processes, rituals, cultural influences and personal experiences of food. Throughout the exhibit one can experience a broad range of art including painting, photography, collage, video and installation pieces that open your eyes to the extreme influences that food brings to an individual and throughout culture. By using something as familiar as food for the subject matter, the artists are able to expose these issues and make them more accessible and tangible to the viewer.

Artists, like <u>Kirsten Stolle</u>, depict hybrid imagery of chemical companies and food and how you can take something familiar and manipulate it. It provides new perspectives on contemporary, scientific issues that are explained through mixed media collage. Other pieces, like **Sarah Spradlin**'s *Picnic at the Old Lagoon*, reflect on happy memories where family and friends gather over a meal and share inside jokes. The range of emotions that run through the artwork of **FEAST** provide the viewer with moments of happy reflection, historical education, and thoughtprovoking insight. Installation artist, <u>Chee Wang Ng</u>, displays a hallway-long piece that is sprinkled with broken china and cow-creamers collected from around the world. This seemingly happy piece delves into the dark and dramatic history of Chinese migrants and their struggles throughout the past. Chee's piece touches on international issues and historic incidents for the Chinese including lynching, human trafficking, life as a minority and cultural struggles.

The **FEAST** exhibit is filled with a variety of art that will interest the viewer, but given the opportunity, one can gain so much more through the understanding of the pieces. Small details that twist the familiar and provide thought-provoking changes are seen throughout the exhibit. Something seemingly ordinary at first glance actually inflicts a much deeper meaning once discovered. This can range from the scientific approach of <u>Karen Gustafson</u>'s ink drawings featuring raw versus processed food; her piece features detailed drawings of the food as seen through a scanning electron microscope, providing an elemental perspective of our everyday meals. To Caren Garfen's dress. hand-stitched with human hair that painfully

shares the personal story of Anna's struggle with anorexia and her desire to take control of her own life. *Pile* and *Self Service* by <u>Kenneth Eric Adams</u> explore the social and cultural aspects of sugar consumption in our diet. The artists of **FEAST** visually take the viewer on an exciting journey that enriches the soul as much as food enriches our lives.

The **FEAST** exhibit will be available through August 9th at the Loudoun House. Visitors are welcome to come by during regular gallery hours to view the exhibit.

Tuesday - Thursday: 10AM - 4 PM Friday: 10AM - 8 PM Saturday - Sunday: 1 - 4 PM

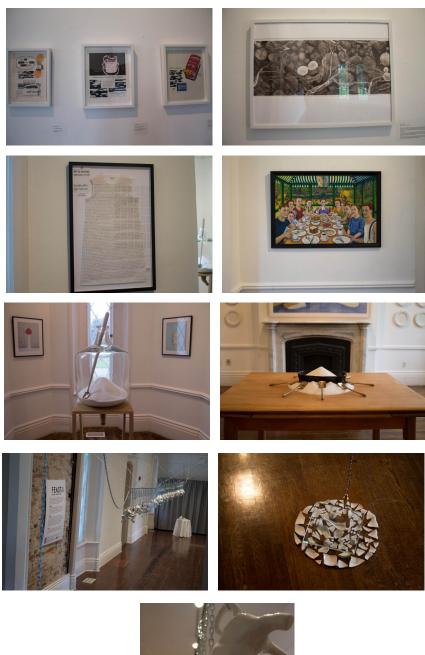
Upcoming event associated with the **FEAST** exhibit include: Fourth Friday Family Picnic: July 24, 6 -9 PM

For more information please visit our website: www.lexingtonartleague.org or contact Stephanie Harris at sharris@lexingtonartleague.org

The FEAST exhibit includes artists: Kenneth Eric Adams\* (images of Pile and Self-Service attached) Ruth Adams Hilarv Brown Sarah Madison Brown Derrick Burbul Caren Garfen\* (image of Anna's Dress attached) Karen Gustafson\* (image of Raw vs Processed: Potatoes attached) Lou Haney Katie Hargrave **Kris Rehring Jones** Stephanie Kang Amy Kim Tatiana Larsen Shannon Leith **Ryan Lewis** Kally Malcom Michael Mergen Chee Wang Ng\* (three images of In the Name of Our Forefathers - Clear Tea Light Rice attached) Andrew Pasquella Giang Pham Jenni Phillips Jennifer Reis Sarah Jane Sanders Nicole Santiago Joe Sartor Melissa Shelton Jeannine Shinoda Rebecca Sittler Sarah Spradlin\* (image of Picnic at the Old Lagoon attached) Kirsten Stolle\* (image of Make Insect Profit, New Chemicals, Little Man...What Now? attached)

Lina Tharsing Ó Claire Anna Watson Heidrun Weiler Rachel Yurkovich

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## **About Lexington Art League**

Committed to building a world where art, artists, and art-making flourish among regional, national, and international communities, LAL provides free, quality contemporary art programming, including exhibitions, youth education and outreach programs, artist conversations, community tours, and more.

Founded in 1957, LAL has radically evolved beyond the parameters of traditional art leagues. While keeping the core of the art league model--a robust membership deeply committed to the value of visual art in contemporary life--LAL embraces 21st Century approaches to curatorial programming, community-building, place-making, art education, and outreach to underserved communities.

LAL's slogan, "Art for Everyone," reflects the organization's commitment to providing multiple access points for patrons to experience visual art. From the Woodland Art Fair, an outdoor, weekend-long juried art sale which draws more than 60,000 visitors to large-scale art exhibitions at The Loudoun House to the The 20, a high-end art auction, LAL sees itself as a visual art organization that fosters relevant connections among diverse cross-sections of the public and thought-provoking contemporary artwork by local, regional, national, and international artists.

All Lexington Art League programs are made possible through the generous support of Lexarts. Lexarts allocation of \$50,000 represents the largest single donation to the operations of the Lexington Art League. The Kentucky Arts Council, a state arts agency, provides operating support for the Lexington Art League with state tax dollars and federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.