

# CIVILIAN

ART PROJECTS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013

**CONTACT:**

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**PUBLIC OPENING:**

Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013  
7pm-9pm

**ON VIEW:**

February 1<sup>st</sup> – March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013



smoke and steam for e&v, 2012. 20" X 30" inkjet print. Image courtesy the artist and Civilian Art Projects.

## **Kate MacDonnell: Hidden in the Sky**

For *Hidden in the Sky*, MacDonnell presents richly colored and textured imagery depicting enigmatic phenomena found in the day and night sky. Like stills from a movie, the images set a context inviting the viewer to fill in bits of the narrative or enjoy the open-endedness. This is her second solo exhibition with the gallery.

Kate's statement:

*I never get tired of the blue sky. ~Vincent van Gogh*

*These images play with scale and perception and seek out traces of the mystery of the cosmos in*

*our everyday lives. My explorations of the five elements led to making images of the sky and atmospheric phenomena to elicit a sense of wonder and mystery. When pondering the cosmos, we realize that we are indeed little and flawed and don't know everything. This is the kind of unstable footing that I want to share with viewers. We arrive at a surface sometimes hazy and sometimes crystalline - a field of view that contains traces of the ephemeral and the ethereal.*

*There's this notion of an arbitrarily large imaginary sphere that is used as a mapping device in astronomical observation that puts the observer at the center under the dome of the sky; it's known as the celestial sphere. In photographing the sky, we are photographing something that is not actually there, rather making images of the atmosphere between here and the far end of space. Or in some of these images referencing that depth for example with bits of blue sky masquerading as stars as they peak through wooden slats. These layers echo the complexity and confusion that is described in the moment before clarity in the Svetasvatara Upanishad: the last obstacles that one sees before seeing the highest self or Brahman are poetically spelled out: a mist, a smoke, and a sun; a wind, fire-flies, and a fire; lightnings, a clear crystal, and a moon.*

*Rather than seeing through the mist or the smoke or whatever to the universe, the self is what is revealed (however they might be one in the same). To add one more cultural perspective, these seem of a piece with the mandala principle in buddhism that also has this observer-centric view, each of us looks out from the center of our life and the whole world of our experience, all of our experiences, everywhere we go, everywhere we look is our mandala. So where do we choose to direct our gaze? Or more aptly, how? The universe is only ever being seen through the veil of one's own eyes.*

Kate MacDonnell has exhibited internationally, including in New York, Orlando, Lima and Berlin. Her work is held in private and public collections. She has had Museum shows in Washington DC at the American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center and the Corcoran Gallery. Her work has been published in the exhibition catalogue Catalyst: 35 Years of the Washington Project for the Arts, as well as in The Photo Review and Photography Quarterly. She was interviewed on NPR's Morning Edition for her work in the collaborative project sametime715.com. She has received the Artist Fellowship Grant from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities and has been a visiting artist and guest lecturer to regional colleges and universities including George Washington University, Virginia Commonwealth University, St. Mary's College of Maryland, Edinburgh University, Allegheny College and the Corcoran College of Art + Design. This is her second solo exhibition with the gallery.

**Civilian Art Projects** is an art gallery based in Washington, D.C. existing to support the voice and vision of the artist. The gallery is located in the Shaw neighborhood in downtown Washington near many major museums, galleries, and national treasures. For more information or high-resolution images, please contact the gallery.

Public viewing hours: Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday 1 to 6pm and by appointment.

Civilian Art Projects/ 1019 7th Street NW/ Washington, D.C. 20001 / [www.civilianartprojects.com](http://www.civilianartprojects.com)  
/202-607-3804

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