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Fine Art

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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***MATERIALIZE:  
ALUMINUM AND STEEL PAINTINGS BY FRANCIE HESTER & ENCAUSTIC  
WORKS BY AMBER GEORGE***

April 24 - June 6, 2014

**OPENING RECEPTION:** Thursday, April 24, 6-8 pm

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We are delighted to present ***MATERIALIZE: ALUMINUM AND STEEL PAINTINGS BY FRANCIE HESTER & ENCAUSTIC WORKS BY AMBER GEORGE***, on view from April 24-June 6, 2014. The exhibition opens with a reception on **Thursday, April 24, 6-8 pm**.

The title ***MATERIALIZE*** refers to the significance of the each artist's medium: **Francie Hester**, acrylic paint on steel, aluminum and **Amber George**, encaustic, or bee's wax, mixed with pigment on panel.

**Hester**, exhibiting for the first time with SEFA in NY, participated with the gallery at the Aqua Art Fair, Miami (2012). She is represented by a range of new work, including the *Vessels* series, on fabricated steel; the *Relic and Portal* series on fabricated disks of solid aluminum; and the *Intertwined, Strata* and *Convex* series on aluminum panels with a honeycomb core. Hester applies successive layers of acrylic paint to the various materials and then sands, heats and reapplies paint to create a depth of surface. Some surfaces are etched with brain scans and others are drilled. A final layer of wax and raw pigment pulls out the patina and richness of the layered colors.

**FRANCIE HESTER ARTIST STATEMENT**

My work over the past decade has explored the sequencing of time — how seemingly random or disjointed events form patterns that crystallize time. The *Strata* and *Convex* series included in this show reflect this exploration of interconnections that create rhythm and memory. *Symbolic Spaces*, my new body of work, explores an alternative concept — it shifts from a linear, mathematical piecing together of sequences and instead examines time as infinite, fluid, without discrete beginning or end. Within this overarching framework, the work in ***Materialize*** is executed in four series: The gentle arc of *Vessels* creates a space for reflection, contemplation, healing, remembering. Thought, time and memory come together as a collective. The *Relic* series takes its

shape from the Bi Discs of ancient Chinese burial sites. The series explores the concept of infinity. *Portals* are an entry point into infinite space. As with a microscope, each is meant as a magnified window into complexity without boundary. The *Intertwined* series examines two contrasting principles. Time is marked and measured; and time is unbounded, fluid, infinite.

#### **FRANCIE HESTER BIO**

Francie Hester received her MFA in painting from the University of Maryland and a BFA in painting from the University of Michigan. Her work has been exhibited both nationally and internationally and has received honorary grants from the District of Columbia Commission on the Arts and Humanities, and from the Arts Council of Montgomery County, Maryland. She is represented in numerous private and corporate collections including the World Bank, Freddie Mac, Capital One, KPMG, Covington & Burling and the International Monetary Fund. Hester's commissioned works include a 1996 piece for the Ginetta Sagan Fund of Amnesty International and an 18-foot atrium piece for the Chicago Kent College of Law. In addition, she has created large-scale sculptural aluminum paintings for Airbus headquarters, ASHA, Booz Allen Hamilton and National Endowment for the Arts Member Benefits.

#### **AMBER GEORGE**

In **Amber George's** recent paintings, she continues her exploration of the soft and pliable encaustic medium to render multi-tiered abstractions, structured with soft geometry and accented with bright blues and greens. Not surprising color choices, given the artist's life long fascination with nature and pattern, and her inspiration from textile, the woods, foliage and all things nature gives us. In this fast drying encaustic technique, layers of wax dry and set before she adds another layer. The result is that the various strata remain submerged, rather than appear as layers built atop each other. Color and texture are glimpsed as if underwater.

#### **AMBER GEORGE ARTIST STATEMENT**

I paint memories of plants, places or personal items such as clothing and fabrics. Rather than rely on actual documentation of those things, I use manipulated photographs, distorted photocopies and intuitive and interpreted memories to represent them, layering memories and experiences. I am attracted to bold shapes, dissected compositions and patterns. The balance between organic and order is a broad theme across my work and informs both structural and subjective decisions. I employ a variety of techniques including painting, printmaking, collage, photography and sculptural manipulation of the encaustic medium to achieve each painting.

#### **AMBER GEORGE BIO**

Amber George received her BA in Fine Art from UCLA in 1994. She studied with some of

the most notable contemporary artists in LA, including Lari Pittman and Nancy Rubins. In addition to private collections across the US, her work is also included in numerous corporate collections. Her work has received additional attention from writers and gallery owners. Her painting "Parasol Landscape" was featured in the 2008 book *Embracing Encaustic* written by Linda Womack. She was invited to participate in the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art's Art Auction 2008. Ms. George was also included in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Encaustic Invitational, a national invitational exhibition of encaustic work at the Conrad Wilde Gallery in Tucson, AZ, considered by many to exhibit some of the most accomplished work being created in encaustic today. **MATERIALIZE** is Amber George's second exhibition with SEFA, following a solo show in 2009. George has also been featured with the gallery in many group exhibitions and art fairs in NY and Miami. Additionally, she curated the group exhibition *Making Their Mark* at SEFA (2011).