

The Surviving Landscape: Michelle Podgorski

McKinley Arts and Culture Center – **West Gallery**
December 22, 2014 – January 30, 2015



McKinley West Gallery hosts new work by North Carolina artist Michelle Podgorski. *The Surviving Landscape* explores the flora and fauna in the floodplain of the South Fork River; one of the most polluted rivers in the United States. The large-scale watercolor paintings depict fragments of trees, bark and plants. The artist says, “There is no doubt that humankind has altered the world outside of our four walls, but rather than our destruction, what I am interested in is the ability plants have to survive. My paintings focus on the natural cycle of death and growth, adaptation and sustainability that is constantly occurring in the natural world despite our interference.” Podgorski’s process begins outdoors, experiencing the altered landscape firsthand. Her work often includes direct interaction with her subjects, adding paper to tree cavities or removing bark and using it to fill in the negative space of her paintings. *The Surviving Landscape* features watercolors that detail the negative space inherent to plant life that has been pruned by or for humans.

Michelle Podgorski graduated from the University of Hartford, Hartford Art School in 2010 with a BFA in painting. Podgorski has shown work throughout the North East, from the Green Street Arts Center in Wesleyan University, CT to the Page-Walker Art and History Center in Cary, NC. Michelle received her Masters of Fine Arts from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design in 2014. Podgorski will be the artist in residence at the Wilderness Workshop in Apsen, CO in 2015.

michellepodgorski.com

McKinley Arts and Culture Center hosts two gallery spaces. Located on the river walk, McKinley Galleries East and West show talented artists from the Great Basin and beyond. To learn more please visit: <http://renoculture.com>

McKinley Arts and Culture Center

925 Riverside Drive

Reno, Nevada 89503

Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm

Free of charge to the public

For more information please contact City of Reno Public Art at 775.334.6264 or publicart@reno.gov