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Morrison Gallery Begins Academic Year with Out of the Box and Make-Mend

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[Morrison Gallery Begins Academic Year with *Out of the Box* and *Make-Mend*](#)

Both shows will open on Monday, August 29, and run through Friday, October 14.

The University of Minnesota, Morris Edward J. & Helen Jane Morrison Gallery will host the first of its new exhibitions for the 2016–17 academic year, *Out of the Box: Printmakers and the Portfolio Exchange* and *Make-Mend: Recent Work by Jennifer Pettus*. Both shows will open on Monday, August 29, and run through Friday, October 14. An opening reception will be held on Thursday, September 1, from 7–9 p.m. in the gallery.

Out of the Box: Printmakers and the Portfolio Exchange

This exhibition will celebrate the unique and longstanding tradition of collaborative portfolios within the print medium. Printmakers have a strong sense of collaboration and community as well as a reverence for tradition and the multiple. These print exchanges are prized among printmakers as a way to explore various themes, commemorate important events and come together as artists. *Out of the Box* features work by 36 professional printmakers from around the country and includes exceptional examples of all major printmaking techniques. This exhibition was curated by Tracy Otten, professor of studio art, from portfolio collaborations she has participated in over the past 15 years.

Make-Mend: Recent Work by Jennifer Pettus

Jennifer Pettus is a multimedia artist living and working in the Denver-metro area. She received a bachelor of fine arts in studio art (sculpture) from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a master of humanities (women’s studies/sculpture/theater design) from the University of Colorado at Denver. She has long been associated with the Denver artist’s co-op [Edge Gallery](#) and was a member of the [RiNo Art District’s Ice Cube Gallery](#) from 2015–16. Part of a new wave of mixed-media fiber artists, Pettus is featured as one of 160 artists in the Dutch publication [Textile Art Around the World](#) and is exhibiting work at the [Fiber Art International 2016](#) in Pittsburgh.

Pettus describes her work as “celebrating the coexistence of nonsensical and rational realities of everyday life.” Furthermore, Pettus “imagine[s] the human body as a membrane that defines a shifting surface of exchange between internal mechanics and external embellishment. By absorbing and secreting its surroundings, it is constantly improvising but never solidifying. Therefore, the body and all its disruptive and dispersive capabilities becomes a site for unraveling relationships of power interwoven through gender, language, sexuality, and etiquette. [Pettus] choose[s] materials and methods that echo this fluid improvisation, suggesting a function and a form that is never fully disclosed: stains on bed sheets become a topographical map; hair becomes text or a balloon becomes a precious gem. Domestic crafts, theatrical design, fine art, and the happy accident collide in a way that is simultaneously or alternately alluring, awkward, funny, and disturbing. By obsessively deconstructing the materials and techniques of handmade crafts and fine art in combination with repurposed, everyday objects, [Pettus] create[s] subversive assemblages that highlight the subjectivity of value and diffuse power structures, even while entertaining them. And by combining disparate but familiar elements, [Pettus] portray[s] the messiness of impropriety, the incoherence of compulsion, and the transience of beauty.”

The Edward J. and Helen Jane Morrison Gallery is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.–8 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m.–6 p.m., and Saturday from 1–4 p.m. For more information, please contact Jessica Larson, professor of studio art, at larsonje@morris.umn.edu.

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