



NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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IOWA ARTIST ROSE FRANTZEN WORKS TO BE ON DISPLAY

Second exhibition for Maquoketa native at Muscatine Art Center starts September 2

MUSCATINE, Iowa - A new series of works created by Iowa artist Rose Frantzen will be on display September 2 through October 31 on the second floor of the Stanley Gallery at the Muscatine Art Center. Visitors can meet Frantzen from 5 to 7 p.m. on September 9 in her exhibition area. Admission is free of charge.

Frantzen was born, raised, and returned to Maquoketa, Iowa, where the rural lifestyle and landscape continue to provide inspiration for her paintings. Her lifelike and radiant examinations of humans and our world bring together a long tradition of oil painting and portraiture with the skill and forward thinking of a 21st Century artist.

Frantzen's exhibition, *The Optics of Illusion*, is an interplay of portraits in dialogue with optical illusions. The exhibition dives into our national conversations about identity, tribalism, and othering while exploring the likelihood that we might misperceive others and even ourselves.

In the piece entitled, *Carrying the Weight on an Occluded Reflection*, the woman's reflection is inverted and obscured within an archway that seems asymmetrical, within a framework that only appears to be misaligned. The viewer



Rose Frantzen, *Carrying the Weight on an Occluded Reflection*, 2017, oil on linen



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questions, "Is this the illusion?" and "Does the woman carry the weight of the viewer's misconception?"

"I am an oil painter who finds the human subject fascinating," Frantzen said. "The painting processes I utilize, the direct and alla prima (wet-on-wet) approaches, often require a great deal of time engaged with my subject. I have found whenever I really meet someone, as I do when I paint them, I meet their dignity."

The process of painting someone taught Frantzen that you cannot simply look at a person and think you know them.

"Can we trust ourselves so much?" Frantzen asked. "Optical illusions remain persistent, even when we rationally know that we are seeing things incorrectly. If misperception happens with simple lines and shapes, why wouldn't this also occur when we encounter something as complex as another human being or even ourselves."

This will be Frantzen's second exhibition at the Muscatine Art Center. Her series, *Faces of Iowa State*, was on view in the Stanley Gallery in 2018. That exhibition featured 39 portraits commissioned by Iowa State University to commemorate presidents, deans, accomplished faculty, and heralded alumni.

In June 2018, the Muscatine Art Center commissioned Frantzen to paint volunteer, Sandy Hallett, during the Ice Cream Social.

"Rose set up in the Music Room," Melanie Alexander, Director of the Muscatine Art Center, said, "and painted Sandy for about five and a half hours in front of an audience. It was amazing to see the portrait transform from green and lavender undertones to a fully realized portrait."

Frantzen attended the American Academy of Art in Chicago, the Palette & Chisel Academy in Chicago, and the Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts in Old Lyme, Connecticut. After years of living in Chicago and New York City, and returning again and again to her hometown, Frantzen



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purchased the old Maquoketa city hall and renovated the building with her parents, creating a gallery that now exhibits her work alongside the works of her husband, Charles Morris.

The Muscatine Art Center is located at 1314 Mulberry Avenue in Muscatine, Iowa. Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Thursday evenings until 7:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Admission is free. Donations are appreciated.



Rose Frantzen and Sandra Hallett during the Annual Ice Cream Social on June 25, 2018



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Rose Frantzen, *Waves of Misperception Migrating*, 2017, oil on linen