

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Meghan Parsons | 336.397.2107 | meghan.parsons@ncdcr.gov



Heat 2. 2014. Image Courtesy the Artist and the Pergamont Collection.

Josephine Halvorson: Slow Burn

March 26- May 31st, 2015

Opening reception March 26, 6-8 PM, preceded by artist talk from 5-6 PM.

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (Feb 26, 2015) – The Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA) is pleased to present *Josephine Halvorson: Slow Burn*, a solo exhibition of the artist's paintings, on view from March 26 through May 31, 2015. The opening will be held on Thursday, March 26, 2015 at 6:00 PM, with an artist talk in SECCA's Scott McChesney Dunn Auditorium from 5:00-6:00 pm, preceding the opening.

Slow Burn gathers a selection of twenty-three oil paintings by Josephine Halvorson, a contemporary artist who orients traditional approaches to painting towards an experiential and environmental art practice. Halvorson paints outdoors, *en plein air*, in locales across America and the world, translating found objects into images and creating a connection between artist, object and place. Exploring the world at hand, she uncovers the material and local history embodied in post-industrial machines and in architectural structures and surfaces. Halvorson's use of color, wet-on-wet handling, and insistence on painting for uninterrupted periods lend immediacy and intensity to the act of perception. The paintings sustain the slow, absorbed looking suggested by the exhibition's title.

"My practice is one of understanding an object in time: its history, its function, its place in the world, its environment—and my own relationship to it," the artist has said. Halvorson's twenty-three portraits of the inanimate world bear witness to a haptic encounter between herself, her subject, the material of paint, plus time. "One arrives at meaning with Halvorson's paintings," says Curator Cora Fisher, "through the sensation that the past, present, and future can be touched in a form recognizable in everyday life."

Josephine Halvorson: Slow Burn and the upcoming Main Gallery exhibition, *Alternative Modernisms* look to expand our sense of the contemporary through artists who negotiate the past, intervening in pictorial traditions and accounts of history.

Josephine Halvorson (Brewster, MA) has exhibited across the United States, Europe and Asia, with solo shows in New York and Paris. She is currently a fellow at the French Academy in Rome at the Villa Medici. Her work has appeared on Art21's New York *Close Up* documentary series and her writings on art in Afterall online and Art Journal. Halvorson teaches in the graduate program in Painting at Yale University School of Art, and she has taught at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. She was awarded the Fulbright Fellowship in 2003-4, the Tiffany Foundation Grant in 2009, and the NYFA Arts Award in 2010. She lives and works between New York and Massachusetts.

SECCA is located at 750 Marguerite Drive and is open Tuesday through Sunday. For hours of operations and other information, visit www.secca.org. Admission to SECCA is free.

###

About SECCA

The Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art in Winston-Salem, N.C. seeks to enhance perspectives, inspire community and ignite new ideas at the intersection of art and its visitors. Located at 750 Marguerite Drive, the museum is open Tuesday through Saturday. For hours, please visit www.secca.org. SECCA is an affiliate of the [North Carolina Museum of Art](#), a division of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources. SECCA receives operational funding from The Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. Additional funding is provided by the James G. Hanes Memorial Fund.