

Mark Woolley Gallery pleased to announce 8 week exhibition by veteran painters MICHAEL T. HENSLEY and LAUREN MANTECÓN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 1, 2016

CONTACTS:

Mark Woolley: 503 998-4152, mawoolley@comcast.net,
markwoolley.com

Michael T. Hensley: 503 805-5978, mthpainting@gmail.com,
michaelthensley.com

Lauren Mantecón: 503 473-2786, laurenmantecon@gmail.com
laurenmantecon.com

RE: 8 week Painting Exhibition at Mark Woolley Gallery in downtown Portland, Oregon (top floor, Pioneer Place, SW 4th & Morrison adjacent to People's Art; actual address 700 SW 5th Avenue, Portland, OR 97204) by MICHAEL T HENSLEY of Portland and LAUREN MANTECÓN, formerly of Portland and now residing in Santa Fe, NM

SHOW DATES: March 19-May 15, 2016

OPENING RECEPTION: March 19, 2016 (Third Saturday), 5-9 pm

APRIL THIRD SATURDAY RECEPTION: APRIL 16, 2016, 5-9 PM

REGULAR GALLERY HOURS: Thursday-Sunday, 12-6 and BY APPT.

IMAGES & EVITE: sent to accompany this press release via separate email (additional or specific images of works & complete artist cvs for arts writers, collectors available upon request)

NARRATIVE BIOGRAPHIES & SELECTED COLLECTIONS FOR BOTH ARTISTS
ATTACHED...

MICHAEL T. HENSLEY

"Recent Work"

Michael T. Hensley's work is very well known in Portland, Oregon due to numerous gallery shows at Blackfish Gallery, Mark Woolley Gallery and a variety of group shows. Additionally, the public cannot miss the striking, multi-story outdoor mural and site based murals for the Outside In (O/I) main facility in downtown Portland & satellite O/I ventures such as the Virginia Woof Doggie Day Care job training sites & mobile clinic vans (Outside In serves homeless and low income youth and young adults through a variety of programs). Hensley's public work also includes a "Wallworks" mural project at the Portland International Airport, individual works in the City of Portland Portable Works Collection, iconic glass etchings of his

work on Tri-Met bus shelters throughout the metro area, and a collaborative youth mural project on the Interstate light rail line. Maintaining a high degree of originality and technical finesse in the numerous painting exhibitions in Portland and elsewhere, diverse public art projects and until recently a business in commercial exterior and interior painting, Michael T. Hensley is one busy, committed and hard working visionary. In addition to the City of Portland and the City of Seattle, selected public collections include the Oregon Health and Sciences University, Microsoft, Modera Hotel and Twitter.

Step inside Michael T. Hensley's paintings and you will find a hieroglyphic revelation of heavy, chromatic landscapes, images that pull the eye in all directions. (in addition to the evite, for a spectrum of images, go to michaelt hensley.com) His works are layered and stacked, thoughts upon thoughts, some harried, others placid, giving way to perfect balance, noisy and quiet, rushed and still, expansive and microscopic. Words make regular appearances, stamping a haze of visuals with everyday poetry. Mediums vary, mostly paintings are rendered in paint applied with brushes or rags or hands, other times paper ephemera is injected to add dimension and texture, pens, pencils and random sharp objects slash through layered panels revealing buried stories underneath.

Hensley's imagery is mostly autobiographical, coming from an emotional and automatic practice of mark making, collage, painting and building layer upon layer of visual information. The idea is to reveal a glimpse of the subconscious as well as the outside world, an attempt to bring to the surface that which has never been seen before, the thrill of the unexpected.

Brian Libby, contributing writer for The Oregonian writes, "Working with mixed media on wood, the artist creates a kind of uber graffiti in which a dizzying array of scratches, text, crudely drawn cartoon characters and other minutiae are densely packed and layered onto every inch of canvas."

Kelton Sears of The Seattle Weekly writes, Hensley's paintings eschew the bucolic for the waste bin. Imagine all the drippy paint-marker graffiti you see on dumpsters across the city, cobbled together into incredibly busy, bustling schizophrenic psychoscapes. His paintings reflect how the city feels at its most chaotic—overwhelming, colorful, fun and a little disorienting."

Born in Charlottesville, VA, Michael T. Hensley found a muse in the teachings of Carl Jung and Joseph Campbell. He left Virginia for Portland, Oregon to begin the journey as an artist. "It was as far as I could drive without landing in the ocean" he says. Hensley attended the Pacific Northwest College of Art and Portland State University, where he received his BA in Painting and Printmaking. In addition to multiple shows at Mark Woolley Gallery over the years, he is represented by The Linda Hodges Gallery in Seattle and the Sandler/Hudson Gallery in Atlanta.

LAUREN MANTECÓN
“Shape Shifting”

Lauren Mantecón has had a busy career as a prolific painter, highly regarded art instructor and lecturer and recipient of a wide variety of residencies, awards and fellowships. Formerly a staple of Portland, Oregon’s art scene, Mantecón has also shown her work in Seattle, Sun Valley, multiple California, Utah and Hawaii galleries as well as venues in Massachusetts, New York and Mexico. Selected residencies include Djerassi (Woodside, CA), Santa Fe Art Institute and the Helene Wurlitzer Foundation in Taos, NM. She is a current recipient of a Lillian Orlowsky and William Freed grant and will have a 4 person exhibition in Provincetown Art Museum, MA in October, 2016. She is currently based in Santa Fe and is looking forward to seeing Portland colleagues and friends at her Mark Woolley Gallery Opening Reception on Saturday, March 19 from 5-9 pm. Please take this opportunity to see and discuss her new work in her “Shape Shifting” exhibition, an 8 week show running through May 15, 2016.

Mantecón is an artist who continues to refine and explore her artistic vision based on several important foundations and ongoing, consistent practice. The results are paintings which are fresh yet grounded, solid yet ethereal, hinting at portals to something spiritual and transcendent. (please go to laurenmantecon.com to see the range of her work) In her own words:

“While the processes and media I have used have been varied over time, the visual language and symbols have stayed constant. Clouds, orbs, strings, pearl like forms, eggs and spheres set against deep layers of paint. I am looking to build, hide and excavate mark making. Paint for me transcends the material world—color, non-color, ambiguous shapes, veils—all serve as a visual dialogue between what cannot be seen but can be felt. The crossing points between the earth and spirit.”

Mantecón spent her childhood moving between the East and West coasts, negotiating the terrain of identity and place in the middle. After settling in Southern California as a young adult, she earned her BA in conceptual photography from Cal State Fullerton, where she was deeply influenced by the work of Cindy Sherman and Lorna Simpson, who worked in self/cultural photo documentation. She earned her MFA from Portland State University in 1997. It was during this time that she began to deepen her focus on transcendence and beauty, leading to a visual practice anchored in navigating the crossing points between the material world and the atmosphere of spirit.

Selected collections include Amazon.Com, Museo De La Isla De Cozumel, Mexico, Plains Art Museum, Fargo North Dakota, W Hotels, Stamford, CT, Santa Fe Art Institute, Sitka Center for Art & Ecology, Otis, OR, Portland Community College, Kettle Chips Corporation, and numerous corporate and private collections.