

Richmond, VA - **artspace** is pleased to present three new gallery shows, featuring paintings, drawings and installation works by **Susan Hensel**, a group exhibit by **Bluecoup** which includes 22 artists showing works in multiple medias, and a group exhibition by **artspace artist members**. Exhibition dates are March 23 through April 22, 2018. An Opening Reception for the Artists takes place on Friday, March 23, 2018, from 6:00-9:00 pm and is Free and Open to the Public. A closing artist talk takes place Sunday, April 22, 2018 at 2:00 pm, also be Free and Open to the Public. *These shows culminate during Richmond's Earth Day Festival on Saturday, April 21, 2018 when **artspace** opens its doors to the festival-going public with its exhibitions that complement and support the Earth Day message. Gallery visitors during the Earth Day Festival will enjoy music by keyboard artist, Tony Dursa.*

The *Main* Gallery exhibition entitled, **Eros and Thanatos**, includes large scale drawings, installation and sound by **Susan Hensel**. Hensel describes this series as "elemental like the first handprints on the cave walls." The images are oval, floral, undersea, vulvar: evocative of birth, life, and pleasure. "The artwork is a consideration of beauty while still acknowledging vulnerability, pain and brokenness," Hensel writes. "Death will always arrive for each and every one of us. It is the subtext of all that we do and the source of the rapturous awareness of the divine, the immanent, the beautiful. Beginning with instinct and sensory data, ending in nothingness, with beauty and pain in between..." Hensel's practice in the studio is to work for extended periods of time with a single idea. "From June 2015 to January 2017, I worked exclusively with shell-like vulvar images in multiple media, comparing and contrasting the vulvar shapes with aquatic life forms," she says. "Wall hung, framed and unframed pastels, drawings, prints, paintings, lace, sound and performance are employed to create a multisensory experience of the beauty and breadth of living." Hensel holds an M.F.A. from the University of Michigan.

In the *Frable*, *Helena Davis*, and *smallspace* galleries, **Bluecoup**, a coming together of artists to explore themes of unity and human interconnections interpreted through an immersion in the color blue. The group exhibition features works by the following artists: **Susanne K. Arnold**—encaustic monotypes, **Therese Brown**—cyanotypes, **Santa Sergio De Haven**—drawing and collage, **Llewellyn Hensley and Mary Anne Hensley**—large format inkjet prints, **Jere Kittle**—photography, **Lew Lott**—photography, **Megan Mattax**—mixed media, **Amie Oliver**—ink wash and wax on polypropylene paper, **Joe Olney**—mixed media on wood, **Jessica L. Sims**—paintings, **Susan Singer**—pastel paintings, **Paul Terrell**—raku fired ceramics, and **Robert Walz**—mixed media. Also included in the exhibition will be an installation of mixed media video and sound with wearable, artist-created garments in *smallspace* gallery. The installation was designed by **Jere Kittle** and **Dana Frostick** and features the filmwork of **Patrick Gregory** with art robes created by **Alice Anne Ellis**, **Heidi Field-Alvarez**, **Robin Ryder**, **Sam Vaughn**, **Tara Morand**, **Jere Kittle** and **Dana Frostick**. The show is inspired by the *Bluecoup Project* which proposes a new worldwide symbol of a sky-blue streamer to be flown anywhere from flagpoles to front porches. **Bluecoup's** ribbon of blue is a simple reminder with a powerful message: we are all connected. All of humankind is our family and Earth is the home we share together. The exhibition is curated by **artspace** member, Jere Kittle, a Richmond VA artist and photographer, who is the founder of the *Bluecoup Project*. Please visit the web site: bluecoup.org. Thanks to Caravati's Architectural Salvage in Richmond with the generous loan of their treasures to enhance the installation for this exhibition. www.caravatis.com

The *Suzanne Foley Gallery* will show **Made for each other - the Earth and Us**, a group exhibition by the artist members of **artspace** gallery featuring work in a variety of medias.

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Sunday from 12-4pm and by appointment. Please contact the gallery administrator at artspaceorg@gmail.com, or phone the gallery at 804-232-6464 for additional information. The gallery is located at Zero East 4th Street in Richmond, Virginia 23224, and online at www.artspacegallery.org.

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