

Connecticut Sea Grant Awards First Arts Grant to Debbie Hesse of Branford

The Connecticut Sea Grant program at the University of Connecticut is pleased to announce that the program has awarded its first Arts Grant to artist Debbie Hesse of Branford, Connecticut. Hesse will use grant money, up to \$1,000, to create a large-scale wall installation and a limited edition artist's book depicting "portraits" of seaweed, both within and outside of its habitat.

Hesse's project was selected from the entries by a panel of reviewers with expertise in various art genres. "The new grant program is intended to inspire and facilitate works of art that will foster appreciation and understanding of the marine environment by a larger and more diverse audience", said Sylvain De Guise, director of Connecticut Sea Grant. The competition was open to writers, artists, musicians, and film makers, and the program hopes to offer the grant on an annual basis.

"I am excited and honored to be the very first to receive the Connecticut Sea Grant Artists Award" said Hesse. "I am fascinated with seaweed for its formal aesthetic properties as well as its historical, medicinal, industrial, ecological and aquaculture significance," she said in her application. "Seaweeds occupy oceans around the globe; some are deeply rooted while others are drifters. Perhaps a metaphor for life's diversity."

Hesse plans to create etchings under the guidance of a master printer as a special project at the Center for Contemporary Printmaking in Norwalk, Connecticut. Her previous work may be seen on her website, <http://www.debbiehesse.com>.

The Connecticut Sea Grant Program (www.seagrants.uconn.edu) is a partnership between the University of Connecticut and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The program sponsors marine-related research, outreach, and education.

For more information about the new art grant program, contact Syma Ebbin, syma.ebbin@uconn.edu.



Artist Debbie Hesse of Branford, Connecticut, is the first recipient of Sea Grant's new Arts Award.

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