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New Exhibit at Rio Gallery Aims to Extend Interpretations of the Veil

SALT LAKE CITY — *The Painted Veil*, a new group exhibition on display at the Rio Gallery from May 20th – July 8th, 2016 aims to extend possible interpretations of the veil. An artist reception will be held on May 20th from 6-9 p.m. for Gallery Stroll.

Veils are rich in symbolism and are often thought of as pathways into other realms. They have the ability to obscure, separate, conceal, and disguise, while simultaneously drawing our attention and curiosity to what lies beyond. History provides us with instances in which the veil has been utilized as a trope for profound artistic investigation: the veiled virgin sculptures of Strazza and Bernini, the nonrepresentational abstractions of Kandinsky (in which he used the term “veiling” to explain his abstractions), and the Muslim veil, which has become one of the most powerful symbols in contemporary visual culture.

The show’s curator, Jorge Rojas, derived the title of this exhibition from Percy Bysshe Shelley’s poem, “Lift not the Painted Veil,” in which the veil carries many meanings. The veil is a shroud separating life and death – a gateway between earthly and heavenly realms and a curtain one must part to discover true love. It may also be a cosmic veil that must be pierced to glimpse the mysteries of our origins.

Citing Josef Albers, the German-born American artist and educator who said, “What counts is not so-called knowledge of so-called facts, but vision – seeing”, Rojas explains, “In this show, the veil is both a shroud obscuring what lies beyond, as well as an object infused with its own mystery. But this show is also about seeing, and how the act of seeing can be a philosophical, creative, and even a mystical endeavor, as well as a sensory one.”

Involving a multitude of diaphanous materials including glass, paint, wax, film, paper and resins, *The Painted Veil* focuses on works that require the viewer to look *through, into, or beyond* the artwork. Several works possess qualities of transparency, translucency, and opacity that allow light to filter through; offering a glimpse into the artist’s process and the way each has come to engage their respective materials.

Utah Arts & Museums is a division of the Utah Department of Heritage and Arts with a mission to connect people and communities through arts and museums. The division provides funding, education, and technical services to individuals and organizations statewide so all Utahns, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity or economic status, can access, understand, and receive the benefits of arts and culture. Additional information on the programs and services can be found at artsandmuseums.utah.gov or by calling 801.236.7555.

The Painted Veil features artworks by fifteen Utah-based artists and includes painting, photography, sculpture, video, and installation works by Trent Alvey, Jan Andrews, Christine Baczek, Jared Lindsay Clark, Daniel Everett, Jenevieve Hubbard, Sarinda Jones, Amy Jorgensen, Beth Krensky, Stephanie Leitch, Lizze Määttälä, Colour Maisch, Jared Steffensen, Roland Thompson, and Brian Usher.

The Rio Gallery is a program of the Utah Division of Arts & Museums. It is located inside the Rio Grande Depot at 300 S. Rio Grande Street, Salt Lake City. Gallery hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mon. – Fri.

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