FIRST FLOOR

**Traverse**

CRYSTAL WAGNER

June 29 – October 7, 2018

SECOND FLOOR

**Visual Analogies**

THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF VANESSA KOTOVICH & PENN CHAN

August 10 – October 7, 2018
Welcome to the BCA Center galleries

June 29 – October 7, 2018

Use this guide to explore the exhibitions on two floors of the BCA Center. You will **SEE** many different works of art, **THINK** about how the exhibition themes and ideas connect to our contemporary lives, and **DO** your own recording and sketching of your ideas.

**Exhibiting artists at the BCA Center:**

Penn Chan, Vanessa Kotovich, Crystal Wagner

Multi-disciplinary artist **Crystal Wagner** transforms organic and biomorphic designs into colorful prints, sculptures and sprawling installations. Her work is comprised of bright neon hues and patterns suggestive of the natural world. Drawing upon her training as a printmaker and her interest in two and three-dimensional form, she creates intricate, abstract wall sculptures using hand-cut, printed paper. For her art installations, she employs recycled consumer materials, such as disposable tablecloths, to create textural forms that grow and expand in space. **Traverse** is her immense site-specific installation in BCA’s first-floor gallery that moves from floor to ceiling to emerge outside the building and meander across the exterior façade of the BCA Center.

**Visual Analogies** features the photography of Penn Chan and Vanessa Kotovich who explore themes of growth and decay; myth and reality; and the beautiful and grotesque. Penn Chan captures the beauty of destructive forces and nature’s resiliency in his series, **Second Growth**, while Vanessa Kotovich immerses the viewer in the surreal beauty and lush decay of idyllic sanctuaries in her series **Natura**. Representing a new generation of contemporary photographers, Chan and Kotovich embrace the discomfort of the world and explore the extremes by creating imagery that is as unsettling as it is beautiful.
Crystal Wagner creates art forms that remind us of living organisms and natural landscapes. She makes two-dimensional drawings and prints that inspire and become part of her larger sculptural forms. The artist’s large-scale installations give us the feeling of a natural wonder to explore and experience with curiosity and discovery. To make her work in each specific location she draws inspiration from the surrounding architecture, mood and activity of the space. She thinks of her process as drawing and painting in space with colorful lines and shapes. Crystal created Traverse at the BCA Center over several weeks responding to the interior and exterior space.

What lines, colors, and shapes do you see in Crystal’s work?

What forms in the natural world could have inspired this work?

How does the installation give you the feeling of nature?
Crystal Wagner reimagines everyday materials into sculptural forms that are rooted in both the macro and micro found in nature. Using chicken wire and re-used birthday party tablecloths to mimic organic forms, she draws attention to the beauty of nature as well as the overabundance of mass-produced plastic in the environment. She runs multicolored plastic tablecloths through each hole in the chicken wire to form the features of a living thing that seems to grow in the space. Crystal’s smaller wall sculptures, made of wire, wood, cut paper and paint, bring to mind fungi, neon mold and microscopic living organisms.

**If Traverse could be found in the natural world, where might it be?**
What would it be made of?

**What patterns and textures can you find?**

**What living organisms look similar to Crystal’s smaller wall sculptures?**
Penn Chan and Vanessa Kotovich explore themes of opposites such as life and death; myth and reality; and the beautiful and grotesque. Penn’s photographs depict the relationship between humans and nature and how they impact one another. His images remind us of nature’s power to destroy, recover and regrow. Vanessa creates dreamlike images that give us the feeling of a flourishing garden or magical woods. Upon a closer look, her photographs reveal the life cycles of plants and animals, human-made environments, and the beauty of death and decay.

**Which images show evidence of the powerful and destructive forces of nature?**

**What are the different ways you see humans interacting with nature?**

**Find an image that draws you into a beautiful, magical environment. Look more closely and what do you find?**

Create your own art that explores opposites found in nature. Make a drawing of something in nature that you think is beautiful and something that is ugly or grotesque.
Keep on drawing! Draw patterns found in nature. Find something in your natural surroundings to sketch, like the center of a flower, the inside of a seedpod, or a butterfly in a garden.

Families are invited to drop-in to the BCA Center every third Saturday of the month to make their own artworks inspired by our current exhibitions.

Each Family Art Saturday offers a different art making project that will ignite the imaginations of your family members!

BCA FAMILY ART SATURDAY
GET CREATIVE AND MAKE ART TOGETHER!

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
AUGUST 18
SEPTEMBER 15
OCTOBER 20
11 - 1 PM

135 CHURCH STREET, DOWNTOWN BURLINGTON
BURLINGTONCITYARTS.ORG
See.Think.Do!, BCA’s gallery education program invites youth and adults to the BCA Center for an interactive arts experience. Visits last approximately 1-2 hours and begin in the gallery with open-ended questions, discussion and hands-on-activities. Visits conclude in the studio classroom where students create their own original artwork to take home. Youth and adults may also arrange for a guided gallery tour led by the BCA Center gallery staff.

To schedule your visit please contact:
Melinda Johns, Gallery Education and Programs Coordinator, at mjohns@burlingtoncityarts.org, or call 802-865-7551.

Visit burlingtoncityarts.org/gallery-education for more information.