

'Uncertainty' abounds at ATHICA exhibit

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Using uncertainty as an advantage could pose a challenge, but not for artist Casey McGuire.

McGuire is the featured artist in ATHICA's newest exhibition, "ATHICA Emerges IV: Uncertainty."

The institute is holding a Walk and Talk event for the exhibition July 15 where artists and curators will give a tour and discuss the art on display.

McGuire's piece, "Diving through Surface into Light," is a multi-media installation portraying the uncertainty of the ongoing housing crisis in the United States and its aftermath.

"I was thinking about taking a risk just as people do when they enter the housing market," McGuire said. "It's about the home failures, dysfunctions and the decay of empty houses."

The installation has a tent made out of bed sheets, a river of televisions and a mountain of dressers with a diving board on top.

"It's interesting to watch these houses have life and then have that life cut short," McGuire said. "I definitely feel that it was interesting to work with the materials I worked with because we all have a direct personal connection to them."

The four artists participating in this exhibition all have pieces with a metaphorical relationship to the uncertain times people face.

"While the works in this exhibition may strike one initially as beautiful and even joyful, when investigated further they may well leave viewers with a discomfoting feeling or invite them to ponder important issues," said Katherine McQueen, curator of the exhibition.

One of the participating artists, Melissa Dickenson, has a series titled "Cut-Paper II." It appears as a composition of flowers at first glance, but also explores the hibiscus — one of Sudan's cash crops — and the violence that surrounds it.

"In Sudan, most of the farmers are women, and when they go to harvest the crop they are in danger of rape, murder and violence in general," Dickenson said.

Other artists' work includes abstract painting and printmaking series.

"The focus is to highlight the amazing work that is being created in and around Athens," McQueen said.