

NEWS RELEASE

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(RIDGELY, MD—April 6, 2013)

***One Hundred Footsteps*, collaborative art by Jennifer Wallace and Katherine Kavanaugh, on view at Adkins Arboretum**

Birdsong and spidery tree branches, the scrunch of gravel on a dirt road, and sensations of shadow and light, water and wind unfold in a collection of 50 poems and 50 collage drawings by Jennifer Wallace and Katherine Kavanaugh, on view at Adkins Arboretum Visitor's Center through May 31. Their collaborative project, *One Hundred Footsteps*, will take you deep into this world that we inhabit yet hardly notice in the rush and noise of daily life. There will be a reception on Sat., April 20 from 3 to 5 p.m. to meet the artists.

Arranged like loose pages from an unbound book on long shelves lining the walls of the Arboretum gallery, the poems and images are tiny, but their size is deceiving. Every page leads you into a wider world of awareness. Kavanaugh's collaged fragments of soft fibrous paper, touched with orange, ochre or sooty black, are like bits of remembered landscapes. Wallace's poems call up distinct sensations of being in a certain place in a particular state of mind.



The two women, both of Baltimore, were friends before they ever thought of collaborating. Both teach at the Maryland Institute College of Art and are very active in their fields. Kavanaugh exhibits her small works, as well as indoor and outdoor installations, in museums, universities and art centers. Wallace has published her poems, essays and photographs in many art and literary publications. Her new book of poems and photographs, *It Can Be Solved by Walking*, was

published in 2012.

One Hundred Footsteps had its beginnings in a visit by Wallace to Kavanaugh's studio where the artist was working on a series of tiny collages.

"So I saw these small little works," said Wallace. "And I said, oh, these are just like my poems."

As they talked, the two realized that they were both creating small scale works—Wallace poems a stanza or two long, Kavanaugh collage drawings not much larger than playing cards—and that both were considering the experience of living in this world with the same gentle, meditative sensibility. They decided to bring their work together as collaboration.

Because the poems and collage drawings aren't meant to illustrate one another but share what Wallace calls a "similar gesture," they chose the renga, a medieval Japanese poetic form, as the model for combining their work. Often 100 verses long, rengas are collaborative poems created by a pair or small group of poets, one writing a stanza, the next composing a stanza in response. Like Wallace and Kavanaugh, they focus on experiences of nature, the changing seasons and love.

Each page of *One Hundred Footsteps* triggers the senses and opens the mind, whether it is one of Wallace's vivid poems, elegantly printed on a traditional letterpress, or a fragment of an image teasingly disappearing into deep stains of color in one of Kavanaugh's collage drawings. Seamlessly, their works combine to hone awareness of the richness, beauty and resonance of living in this world. As one of Wallace's poems says, "...anything seems possible and, guess what: anything is."

This show is part of Adkins Arboretum's ongoing exhibition series of work on natural themes by regional artists. It is on view through May 31 at the Arboretum Visitor's Center located at 12610 Eveland Road near Tuckahoe State Park in Ridgely. Contact the Arboretum at 410-634-2847, ext. 0 or info@adkinsarboretum.org for gallery hours.

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Adkins Arboretum is a 400-acre native garden and preserve at the headwaters of the Tuckahoe Creek in Caroline County. Open year round, the Arboretum offers educational programs for all ages about nature and gardening. Through its [Campaign to Build a Green Legacy](#), it will build the [W. Flaccus and Ruth B. Stifel Center at Adkins Arboretum](#) and a "green" entranceway to broaden educational offerings and research initiatives promoting best practices in conservation and land stewardship. For additional information about Arboretum programs, visit www.adkinsarboretum.org or call 410-634-2847, ext. 0.

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