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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

****MTSU Department of Art and Design Unveils Fall 2024 Exhibition PREY/TELL****

Murfreesboro, TN – The Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) Department of Art and Design is delighted to announce the opening of its fall 2024 exhibition, PREY/TELL, at the Todd Art Gallery. This striking exhibition, featuring the compelling works of Melissa Vandenberg, will be on display until September 20, 2024.

[Melissa Vandenberg](#), a multifaceted artist known for her work as an educator and curator, brings her unique vision to MTSU from the heart of Eastern Kentucky. Vandenberg’s role as an Associate Professor of Art and Giles Gallery Director at the School of Art & Design, Eastern Kentucky University, informs her multidisciplinary approach, which spans drawing, collage, sculpture, photography, installation, and performance.

Drawing inspiration from Americana relics, eastern religious practices, and a nostalgia for vintage materials, Vandenberg’s selected works interrogate the ephemeral nature of power and the quest for permanence in both tangible and metaphysical realms. Her art, employing ordinary materials like matches, quilts, and temporary tattoos, speaks to mortality through lenses satirical, idealistic, and profoundly personal. Vandenberg’s heritage, rooted in the northern “Rust Belt” metropolis of Detroit and shaped by Southern resilience, echoes through her creations, blending industrial repetition with handcrafted warmth.

In collaboration with her husband, Shane Aday, a 2001 MTSU Art and Design alum and Co-Founder & Design Alchemist at [Sodium Halogen](#), Vandenberg will engage with the MTSU community on Thursday, September 12, 2024. The public is warmly invited to a series of events that include demonstrations, artist talks, and Q&A sessions aimed at students and art enthusiasts alike.

****Event Highlights: ****

- ****Vandenberg Visit****: Join us for a special presentation in the Todd Art Gallery, including an artist reception and exhibit presentation, Q&A, and a brief demonstration, offering insights into Vandenberg’s work and creative process.

- ****Aday Visit****: Experience an interface design introduction by Shane Aday, including a talk and critique session focused on package design and typographic design, providing a unique perspective on design principles and practices.

The Todd Art Gallery, located in the heart of the MTSU campus (Todd Hall, Room 224A), invites all to explore PREY/TELL and participate in this enriching convergence of art,

education, and community. The gallery maintains a commitment to accessibility, offering free admission to all exhibits, receptions, and workshops.

****Todd Art Gallery Information: ****

Open Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed on Sundays, during exhibition installations, and all state, federal, and university holidays. Free parking is available campus-wide on Saturdays, except for game days.

For more details about the exhibition, visiting hours, and additional programming, please visit our website <https://w1.mtsu.edu/art/>, <https://w1.mtsu.edu/art/saturdays.php>, or scan the provided QR Code. For inquiries regarding directions or parking, contact 615-898-5532.



****About MTSU Department of Art and Design: ****

Nestled in the heart of Middle Tennessee State University, the Department of Art and Design fosters creativity, innovation, and scholarly exploration. With a diverse offering of programs and a dedication to excellence, the department equips students for dynamic careers in the arts and beyond.

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<https://www.melissavandenberg.com/>

<https://www.sodiumhalogen.com/>



Image:
Melissa Vandenberg and Shane Aday



Image:
Melissa Vandenberg
King Cotton Anaconda
Civil War era quilt and polyester

Additional images available upon request

