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VISUAL ARTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: INTERNET “EMOJI” FIND THEIR WAY INTO HEAVEN, HELL, AND THE ART WORLD

Carla Gannis' exhibition "The Garden of Emoji Delights" will open on Thursday, November 19 during Real Art Ways' monthly Creative Cocktail Hour from 6-10 PM. Tickets are \$10 and \$5 for RAW members. Real Art Ways is located at 56 Arbor Street, Hartford, Connecticut and online at www.realartways.org. The exhibition will run through January 21, 2016.

Gannis uses Hieronymus Bosch's 16th century masterpiece "The Garden of Earthly Delights" as a backdrop for reimagining signs and symbols of everyday virtual speech. "Emoji," vernacular pictograms that come in a variety of expressions and images, are used to recreate the epic triptych of Eden, Earth, and Hell with a new focus on technology and contemporary society.

In Eden, a hipster Adam & Eve flank a God flashing the "peace" symbol while Emoji-faced creatures drink from a pond. On Earth, the crowds of people are recreated as 3D figures feeding each other virtual fruits beneath towers topped with footballs, French fries, syringes, rockets, and bags of money. In Hell, a brightly colored virtual city goes up in Emoji flames. References to technology, media, and consumer goods are sprinkled throughout.

Gannis, a native of North Carolina who now resides in Brooklyn, says her work is rooted in a Southern Gothic tradition, which she expands to include the Internet. Her new media pieces are informed by art history, technology, cinema, video games, and now the vernacular of virtual language.

