Anna Kunz’s work has never conformed to categorical notions of geometric abstraction or color-field painting, or acquiesced to the polarities of expressionistic and conceptual painting. Instead, her entire oeuvre reflects art’s reliance on chance, associative color and the poetic reordering of form, especially as it all springs forth from near mystical combinations of disparate historical sources, personal memories and collective experiences. She is an artist who is well-known for creating surprising color palettes and calibrating tone and hue to produce distinctly painterly projects in a variety of media. Ranging from traditional paintings on canvas and works on paper to site-specific sculpture, theatrical stage-sets, and video and light installations, Kunz’s productions amount to the epitome of an expanded painting practice.

Building on this trajectory, Anna Kunz: Venus is a reflexive exhibition featuring one small work on paper—completed in 2016 and never before shown—alongside a large-scale

ANNA KUNZ: VENUS

November 30, 2017 – February 24, 2018
Reilly Gallery, Smith Center for the Arts

Artist Talk & Reception:
5:00 - 7:00pm, Thursday, November 30, 2017

Anna Kunz's work has never conformed to categorical notions of geometric abstraction or color-field painting, or acquiesced to the polarities of expressionistic and conceptual painting. Instead, her entire oeuvre reflects art’s reliance on chance, associative color and the poetic reordering of form, especially as it all springs forth from near mystical combinations of disparate historical sources, personal memories and collective experiences. She is an artist who is well-known for creating surprising color palettes and calibrating tone and hue to produce distinctly painterly projects in a variety of media. Ranging from traditional paintings on canvas and works on paper to site-specific sculpture, theatrical stage-sets, and video and light installations, Kunz’s productions amount to the epitome of an expanded painting practice.

Building on this trajectory, Anna Kunz: Venus is a reflexive exhibition featuring one small work on paper—completed in 2016 and never before shown—alongside a large-scale
installation comprised of a video projection and painted gauze scrims re-fashioned out of materials from “Warped,” a vaulted curtain Kunz exhibited at the EXPO Chicago fair in 2016. Dark painted walls and layers of sheer fabric suspended from the ceiling sheathe and bisect the gallery in ways that envelop the viewer’s body in atmospheric color and shapes. Huge swaths of colorful washes and brush strokes become animated as the light emanated overhead and from a video projection refracts on various fabric and architectural planes. The result is a jewel-like temple to all that is painterly. Like the goddess Venus’ arrival in a world on the verge of blooming, Anna Kunz: Venus is born into a world of painting on the verge of expanding.

Anna Kunz: Venus is organized by Jamilee Lacy, PC-G Director & Curator.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Anna Kunz is an artist living and working in Chicago. She has received awards and nominations from organizations such as 3Arts, Artadia; the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation; the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation; and the Rema Hort Mann Foundation. She has been an artist in residence at The Edward Albee Foundation, Roger Brown House, Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture and The Marie Walsh Sharpe Foundation, NYC. Kunz has exhibited nationally and internationally, and recent and forthcoming solo exhibitions include Heroes for Ghosts at Galleri Urbane in Dallas, Yellow Pinto at Thomas McCormick, and Anna Kunz at Hyde Park Art Center in Chicago. She will participate in PULSE MIAMI Special Projects in December 2017. The artist has additionally worked with architects, dancers and musicians to create décor for theatrical and dance productions, namely for the Merce Cunningham Dance Company in 2009. Kunz holds a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a MFA from Northwestern University.

ABOUT PC–G

Providence College Galleries (PC–G), with the support of the Department of Art & Art History at Providence College, presents exhibitions and public programs focusing on contemporary art, innovative artistic practice and interdisciplinary cultural activity. Operating within two gallery spaces and across Providence College’s campus, PC–G supports the educational, service and community-oriented mission of the College with dynamic visual arts productions, including those that foster audience participation, cross-departmental collaboration at the College, and cultural exchange at local, national and international levels. PC–G ultimately strives to produce projects by artists and intellectuals who demonstrate how and why creative practitioners are vital forces in promoting diversity and shaping contemporary global culture.

###