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STETSON UNIVERSITY

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Contact: Heather Hunter
Stetson University Media Relations
P: 407-489-4138
heather.hunter@stetson.edu

Media Advisory

Advance Media Preview of “A Better Nectar” Art Exhibit at Stetson University

Artist Jessica Rath available for interviews on exhibit that combines art and science to show life of bees

DELAND, Florida, Jan. 24, 2018 – Stetson University is a-buzz in anticipation of a new exhibit opening Friday that will submerge visitor in the life of bees. [A Better Nectar](#), by Jessica Rath, is an immersive experience using human-size sculptures, light, sound, photographs and watercolor to explore the bumblebee's journey. Co-hosted by the [Homer and Dolly Hand Art Center](#) and [the Gillespie Museum](#), the exhibit will be on display in both museums Jan. 26 through March 3. A multisensory installation based on Rath's extensive research into communication between flowering plants and their pollinators, *A Better Nectar*, reveals to guests what life would be like as a bee. The work is a timely reminder of the importance of insects to plant reproduction, as habitat loss and degradation threaten native pollinator populations.

Media is invited to an advance preview on Thursday, Jan. 25 to film and photograph the exhibit and interview the artist. Contact Heather Hunter to schedule interviews or for additional information.

WHAT: Advance preview of ‘a better nectar’ exhibit and interviews with artist Jessica Rath. Among other elements, the centerpiece of the exhibit is a human-scaled bumblebee nest that resonates human voice interpretations of bee communication composed by Robert Hoehn.

WHEN: Media Preview:
Thursday, Jan. 25
2:00 p.m. – 4 p.m.

WHERE: Stetson University, Homer and Dolly Hand Art Center
139 East Michigan Avenue, DeLand, Florida, 32723

WHO: Jessica Rath, artist

Jessica Rath teaches at Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, CA and received her B.A. from University of Missouri and her M.F.A. from California Institute of the Arts. Her most recent awards include Mid-Career Fellowships from California Community Foundation (2014) and the City of Los Angeles (2013, COLA). In 2012-13 her exhibit *take me to the apple*, based on genetic work at Cornell University Agricultural Research Station, garnered reviews in *Art in America*, *Artforum*, *Los*

Angeles Times, *Bon Appetit*, and *Smithsonian Magazine*. Her work is included in Center for Art and Environment Archive Collections at the Nevada Museum of Art.

Composer and sound designer Robert Hoehn received his BFA in Electro-Acoustic Composition from California Institute of the Arts in 1994 with additional studies at the Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics at Stanford University and the Hartt School of Music at University of Hartford. Trained as a musician, composer and keyboardist, Hoehn creates music and sound for picture and builds interactive electronic sound systems for galleries, and experimental mechanical acoustical sound sculptures, most often exhibited in art and music festivals. In 2014, Hoehn created *Wind Sound Sanctuary* with funding from Burning Man Arts, a 50-foot playable pipe organ, windmill-driven with custom Aeolian harps.