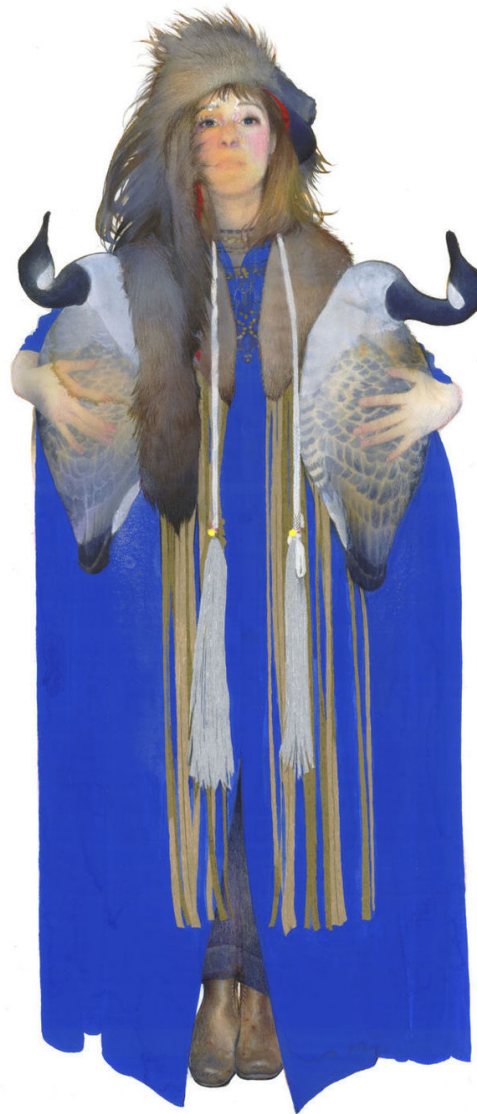


Playful exhibit on display at Artlab

By Julie Butler Feb 4, 2018



“T.S.” is also from Glasson’s “Mountain Drag” series. She likes her female models to take on different identities and to t of empowerment.

Paintings of women playfully posing in fur trapper garb, whimsical three-dimensional collages and various works on paper currently inhabit one of the studios at Teton Artlab.

Eyeball them, and you'll most likely smile.

These multimedia works by June Glasson of Laramie — the visiting artist-in-residence — evoke joy coupled with intrigue.

“A lot of my work, especially over the last couple of years, portrays a lot of playfulness,” Glasson said. “As my practice has evolved, I am bringing a sense of play into it.”

Glasson will present a free talk and open studio from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday. Her diverse creations are on display until Monday.

Glasson works across all mediums — ink, oils, watercolors and sculptures — but said the thing she circles back to the most is painting.

“I don't have a favorite medium, though,” she said. “I have my finger in a lot of pies.”

This is Glasson's first residency at Teton Artlab and she is excited to be here.

“The Teton Artlab offers the ideal residency and I am grateful for this awesome opportunity,” Glasson said. “For two weeks I get to be outdoors, engage with artists in the community and create art in this magical environment.”

A Wyoming transplant from New York City, Glasson has lived in the state for seven years. The Western experience has transformed her artwork. She painted portraits for a long time, she said, but it wasn't until she moved to Wyoming that Western elements, such as clothing and objects, became featured in her work.

In 2016 Glasson had a residency with the Pinedale Fine Arts Council and became intrigued by the history of the Mountain Man and those visually iconic men of the Old West. She quickly put that fascination to work.

“About a year ago I staged a Mountain Man-themed photo shoot with female models, inviting them to take on the idea of the Mountain Man,” said Glasson. “Not necessarily being authentic, but rather playing with their own interpretations.”

Glasson calls the series of paintings she created from those photographs, “Mountain Drag.” She brought several works from this series — including her two favorites — to Jackson.

One of the paintings is named “S.D.F.H.,” and it portrays a woman sporting red sequined hot pants along with a Mountain Man-era fur coat, hat and boots, her long hair fashioned into a beard.

“T.S.” features a figure cloaked in blue and finery, clutching two large geese.

Both pieces are available for sale during her residency.

Glasson said that in general she likes her female models to take on different identities, to feel empowered to tell their own stories.

“A lot of my models are women,” said Glasson, “I get to be a producer of images — a woman you don’t traditionally encounter, a woman who is strong and interesting and not cookie cutter.

“I like to push viewers to see how women are challenged and how people expect women to behave,” she said. “We as a nation are having this conversation right now and it’s important for me to express and support that with my art.”

In addition to the paintings from her “Mountain Drag” series, Glasson also brought some existing portraiture, works on paper and oil portraits to work on while in residency.

During her Q-and-A Wednesday, she plans to speak about her individual practice as well as her community-engaged work, specifically with Wyoming Art Party, which she founded in 2014 in Laramie.

“The Wyoming Art Party’s mission is to organize art projects and shows that connect individuals, scattered throughout Wyoming, who work in different regions, disciplines and from different backgrounds,” Glasson said. “The aim is creating work that truly represents art in Wyoming as it is, rather than as it is thought to be.”

Contact Julie Butler via entertainment@jhnewsandguide.com.