

# Anna Von Mertens

## Color: A Love Story

Curated by Kirsten Swenson, Associate Professor of Art History

LOWELL, Mass. - The UMASS Lowell Department of Art & Design is pleased to announce an exhibition of work by Anna Von Mertens entitled *Color: A Love Story*. The exhibition will be open from Jan. 22 – Mar. 3, 2018. Von Mertens will present a lecture to the public on Wed. Jan. 31 at 3:30 p.m. (location TBA). A reception will follow afterwards from 5-6:30 p.m. in the University Gallery in Mahoney Hall. These events are free, wheelchair accessible, and open to the public.

Von Mertens is a conceptual artist well known for her work in textiles. She produces laboriously detailed quilts and drawings that are immediately engaging as aesthetic objects. Yet for Von Mertens, the beautiful and the decorative are used as a means to investigate forms of knowledge, from science to superstition, and to reflect on human history and futurity. Her objects also strike a tension between disparate realms of craft, modernist painting, and Pop Art.

*Color: A Love Story* will present a new series of drawings based on emojis, the pictograms that enliven our smartphone communications. The exhibit will also include an installation of Von Mertens's conceptual quilts featuring two large-scale bed-forms with fabric squares dyed to match colors that intersect with our daily routines in unique ways: hardware store paint chips, the results of interviewing friends about their least favorite color, or a daily record of the artist's morning pee. In this exhibition, Von Mertens allows quotidian phenomena to direct her craft and drawing processes. Bodily fluids and emojis—disparate visuals from our everyday lives—become the source for meticulously wrought objects. *Color: A Love Story* is at once whimsical and philosophical; Von Mertens's carefully dyed and drawn works indulge the viewer in the beauty of color and the decorative even as we are prompted to view everyday visual phenomena through new eyes.

Anna Von Mertens received her MFA from the California College of the Arts and her BA from Brown University. She has had numerous solo exhibitions including the Berkeley Art Museum, the Boston Center for the Arts, and most recently at the

Elizabeth Leach Gallery in Portland, Oregon. She also shows regularly at the Sharon Arts Center in her hometown of Peterborough, NH. Her residencies and awards include a 2010 United States Artists Simon fellowship and a 2007 Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Biennial Award. Her work is in the collection the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Berkeley Art Museum in Berkeley, Ca, and the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Renwick Gallery.

For more information see her website at [www.annavonmertens.com](http://www.annavonmertens.com).

The University Gallery is accessible to all. Gallery events are free and open to the public. Parking is available in the Wilder Metered Lot, located at the intersection of Wilder Street and Bachelder Street. The entrance to the lot is located on Bachelder Street. After 4 p.m. visitors may park in any open campus lot.

*The UMASS Lowell BFA Degree Program is an accredited visual arts program of professional study in art & design that maintains the standards, guidelines and practices established by the National Association of Schools of Art & Design.*

Gallery Hours: Mon-Wed 10-4pm, Thurs 10-9pm, Fri/Sat 10-3pm, closed during school breaks.

University Gallery | Mahoney Hall | 870 Broadway St | Lowell, MA 01854 | 978-934-3491 or 3494

<http://www.uml.edu/FAHSS/Art/Galleries-Exhibitions/>

Gallery Coordinator: [Deborah\\_Santoro@uml.edu](mailto:Deborah_Santoro@uml.edu)