

## 'Strange Days' in sight at Exeter's Lamont Gallery

EXETER — Celebrating the surreal, the Lamont Gallery at Phillips Exeter Academy presents "Strange Days: The Uncanny, the Curious & the Quite Possibly Magical," an exhibit of ceramics by Angela Cunningham, paintings by Haig Demarjian and Pauline Lim and photographs by Bill Franson.

The showing hovers between the familiar and unfamiliar, where larger-than-life Venus flytraps beckon, "toy camera" photographs make the commonplace unique with tricks of light, and spooky portraits made visitors question what's real.

"Strange Days" opens Wednesday, Nov. 5, and runs through Saturday, Dec. 13. A reception will be 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14, with a gallery talk set for 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 15.

"The artists in 'Strange Days' invite us to explore the terrain of the imagination, to entertain the possibility of the impossible and to find magic in the everyday," says Lauren O'Neal, Lamont Gallery director.

Intent on the contrast between attraction and repulsion, Cunningham focuses on natural objects.

"Nothing can heighten beauty like a dash of the grotesque," says the Somerville, Mass.-based artist.

Known for his love of the monstrous, Demarjian trained as a printmaker and works in painting, filmmaking and comic books. He teaches at Salem State University in Massachusetts.

Franson is a master of black-and-white photography who teaches at New England School of Photography and Gordon College in Massachusetts. Recent work includes "Iron Things," a series taken with a camera used by his father as a teenager, which Franson found and restored after his father's death.

A musician, singer and artist, Lim in her works expresses the "complexity and anxiety, and sometimes despair, of our modern existence," the Somerville, Mass., artist said. Recent work references medieval religious art and Indian Mughal paintings.

Bringing some more uncanny sights to the campus, "Harry Potter's World: Renaissance, Science, Magic and Medicine," will be on display at Exeter's Class of 1945 Library from Dec. 1-16.

For details, visit [www.exeter.edu/lamontgallery](http://www.exeter.edu/lamontgallery) or visit the gallery in the Frederick R. Mayer Art Center, 11 Tan Lane.

