



MEDIA ALERT

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RENOWNED ARTIST SUSAN C. DESSEL TO SPEAK ON HER EXHIBIT AND CREATIVE PROCESS AT GOMEZ MILL HOUSE JUNE 23

Artist Susan C. Dessel will speak on the Sundays at Mill House program at 1pm Sunday, June 23. Gomez Mill House's Gallery G is open to the public Wed-Sun 10-4. The suite of 14 drawings reflects challenges faced by Jewish refugees from Recife, Brazil when they arrived in Nieuw Amsterdam in 1654 – challenges still faced by immigrants to the United States regarding maintaining cultural and religious traditions. With humor and insight, these drawings highlight the cultural differences, assimilation, intermarriage, xenophobia, and treatment of immigrants that have marked the maturing of immigrant communities in the U.S.A. for the past 350+ years.

Dessel received a BFA at Hunter College (CUNY) in 2003 and her MFA with Highest Honors at Brooklyn College (CUNY) in 2006. She was involved in national and local non-profit community organizations and corporate funded projects in support of community needs. Her numerous awards and honors include Manhattan Community Arts Fund Grants in 2009 and 2012; 2010 Puffin Foundation Artist's Grant, and the 2013 Frankel Fellowship, Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Michigan – Project Title: *Words Heard in a Black Maria [conceptual art based on the life and work of Activist & Journalist Martha Gruening (1889-1937)]*.

Since 2006, Dessel has five solo exhibits, ten judged competitions and eleven group exhibits to her credit. She was the 2011 Visiting Artist at Umm el-Fahem Palestinian-Israeli Art Gallery in Israel, and recounts her experience there in "Art in the Arab Sector" in *PEACE X PEACE: Raise Women's Voices Build Cultures of Peace*. Nov. 2011. She was the 2010 Artist-in-Residence at the Art & Cultural Studies Laboratory in Yerevan, Armenia, and the 2008 Artist-in-Residence at Tondach Brick Factory in Prague.

For more information about the artist go to her website: desselstudio.net

The mission of the Gomez Foundation for Mill House is to preserve the 299 year old Gomez Mill House—the oldest standing Jewish dwelling in North America and home to Patriots, Preservationists, Artisans and Social Activists—as a significant regional- and national-ranked museum, and to educate the public about the contributions of its former owners to the multicultural history of the Hudson River Valley

The Gomez Mill House and Historic Site is located at 11 Mill House Road off 9W, in Marlboro, NY. General admission to the Museum (which includes Gallery admission) is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors 65 or older and for groups of 10 or more (reservations required), and \$3 for students with ID and children age 5 to 18; children under age 5 are admitted free.

The Gallery is open 10am – 4pm Wednesdays through Sundays. Gallery admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors, & \$1 for children/students.

For more information contact: Gomez Mill House and Historic Site at (845)236-3126 or via Email: gomezmillhouse@juno.org.