

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Firecat Projects
presents *Morality Tales February 24*
Works by Chicago artists Mary Porterfield and Kathy Weaver**



Firecat Projects
2124 No. Damen
Chicago, Il. 60647

Show Dates: February 24 – March 18, 2017
Opening Reception: Friday, February 24, - to- pm
Artist Talk: Sunday, March 5, 4-6pm
Gallery Hours: 10am-4 pm, Monday-Saturday
Free and Open to the Public
Contact: Stan Klein at firecatprojects@gmail.com
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CHICAGO (February 1, 2017)- Firecat Projects presents “Morality Tales”, a two person exhibition featuring the work of Mary Porterfield and Kathy Weaver. Porterfield’s drawings address when to accept what cannot be changed, especially when caring for those in need. Weaver elaborates on the treatment of others through various depictions of Aesop’s fables, each providing a lesson of morality. With Porterfield’s history as an occupational therapist and Weaver’s work with community activism, both artists bring their personal views to a show of narrative works that address values in today’s world.

Porterfield’s drawings are influenced by her work in healthcare. With soft edges and careful rendering, she creates invented spaces and allegorical scenes that attempt to ask: If assistance is warranted, but not wanted, should it be abandoned? Why is a long life given to some, yet denied others? Is it more heroic to accept the uncontrollable or attempt change in the midst of futility or danger? Porterfield’s intention is to provide a balanced perspective between giving and receiving when assisting others.

Weaver's paintings depict allegories, starring robots and animals in mysterious new worlds. Through hard edges, pattern, and playful coloring, the viewer witnesses opposing kinds of behavior. Symbols of the American eagle, deforestation, and water scarcity reference governmental situations. Some of the tales show survival of the strongest and most cunning, while others demonstrate the golden rule and the celebration of humanity. Weaver's paintings, derived from Aesop's Fables of 600 BC, show the constants in humanity.

In a time when connectedness and compassion seem absent in so many of the world's tragedies, both artists provide an alternative viewpoint, concerned with how we can treat others in a more individualistic and respectful manner.

Mary Porterfield

Porterfield has exhibited both nationally and internationally, including the Lim Lip Museum in South Korea, the Phoenix Art Museum, the San Diego Art Institute, the Kohler Arts Center, the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, the Rockford Art Museum and the Koehnline Museum. Solo shows have included the Packer-Schopf Gallery (Chicago, IL), the Great River Road Museum of Contemporary Art (Potosi, WI), the University of Illinois (Urbana, IL) and the West Valley Art Museum (Surprise, IL). Honors include two Illinois Artist Council Grants, a Puffin Foundation Grant, and three Chicago Community Arts Assistance Program Grants. Porterfield teaches at Northeastern Illinois University and received an MFA from Arizona State University.

Kathy Weaver

Weaver has work in private and museum collections including the Museum of Arts and Design in New York. She has exhibited in China, Taiwan and Europe. In 2016 she was chosen, as one of five artists, to represent the USA at the 15th International Fiber Triennial in Poland. Weaver has received fellowships at the Banff Centre, Ragdale Foundation, and Brush Creek Foundation. She studied in Indonesia, and in Vienna at the Art Academy. Honors include a NEA and an Illinois State grant. Weaver is represented by Zia Gallery. Her work is also exhibited at Chicago's Gallery 19. She received an MA from Bowling Green State University.

"Morality Tales" will be on view from February 24- March 18, 2017. For further information and images of works in the exhibition, visit the gallery website at: www.firecatprojects.org. Images can also be found on www.maryporterfield.com and www.kathyweaver.com or contact Stan Klein at firecatprojects@gmail.com.