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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: APRIL 22, 2019**

**CONTACT PERSON: EMILY PEAK, VISUAL ARTS COORDINATOR**

**SUBJECT: MATTHEW BOONSTRA & ALAN POCARO AT THE KREMPP GALLERY**

**EXHIBIT DATES: MAY 1<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**RECEPTION: MAY 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 – 5-7 PM**

The Krempp Gallery at the Jasper Arts Center is pleased to present for the month of May the artwork of sculptor, Matthew Boonstra of Charleston, IL and printmaker, Alan Pocaro of Champaign, IL.

Assistant Professor of Sculpture at Eastern Illinois University, Matthew Boonstra has exhibited his sculptures nationally including: International Sculpture Center in Hamilton, NJ; Reese Museum in New Johnson, TN; Urban Institute of Contemporary Art in Grand Rapids, MI. Additionally, Boonstra has received numerous artistic awards and distinctions including: Alliance of the Swope Award of Distinction- Swope Art Museum, Visual Arts Fellowship- Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition and publication and Sculpture Magazine.

“I utilize my studio practice to explore materials, processes, and concepts in a free associative manner. These investigations are developed in an autobiographical context concerning my role in contemporary life. For example, my recent series, *Nest*, was developed to explore my feeling of living in a rural landscape. The investment of making has helped me internalize thoughts and then in turn externalize my feelings. I hope to lead the viewer to question the nature of the object, and how and why it exists,” states Boonstra.

As a creative practitioner, Boonstra is fluent in various sculptural processes such as metal casting, wood, and metal fabrication. Boonstra says, “The most exciting part of this journey has been meeting and developing relationships with people along the way. The community keeps my interest to explore and practice new materials and methods. The results are controlled experimentation in both analog and digital realms to solve problems creatively. I have become interested in digital platforms and integrating them with traditional processes. I have been amazed of the results.”

Assistant Professor of Printmaking and Foundations, also at Eastern Illinois University and formerly adjunct faculty at both, the Art Academy of Cincinnati and Miami University, Alan Pocaro is an artist, educator and writer.

Award winning, Pocaro is associated with the New Aesthetics movement, an informal group of artists and writer who emphasize the physical and material nature of art. He regularly contributes art-criticism to *NewCity*, and his writing has been featured in *SmilePolitely*, *artcritical*, *AbstractCritical* and *ART PAPERS*, as well as *CityBeat*.

“My works are a series of scenes that chart a nameless place. These ‘drawings in print’ arise from stories, myth, and incoherent experiences that refuse simple explanation. They are déjà vu, phantoms, visions of heaven and premonitions of hell,” says Pocaro.

Matthew Boonstra holds a Master of Fine Arts in Sculpture from Michigan State University, and a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Sculpture from Eastern Michigan University. Alan Pocaro holds a Master of Fine Arts in Painting and Printmaking from Miami University, a Masters of Arts in Education from the University of Akron and a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Art History from Ohio University.

Join the artists at the Jasper Arts Center for an opening reception at the Krempp Gallery on Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 from 5 to 7 pm. Enjoy an evening of art, food, cash bar, music and fun!

The Krempp Gallery, located in the Jasper Arts Center adjacent to the VUJ campus, is open to the public Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5 pm, until 7 pm on Thursdays, and Sunday from noon to 3 pm. School groups, clubs and students are welcome. Admission is free.

For more information, please call the Arts Center at 812-482-3070. The Jasper Arts Center is managed by Jasper Community Arts, a department of the City of Jasper. JCA is supported by the Friends of the Arts, Inc., the Indiana Arts Commission through its regional partner the Vanderburgh Community Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

**A DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF JASPER**

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