



Above: Pillar, also known as Refuse I, by Meg Hartwig

## Creating art from trash, Seattle's Hartwig asks meaning of value in new KyCAD exhibition

'Refuse' opens 11.30.17 with reception at 849 Gallery

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*Louisville, KY*—Artist Meg Hartwig draws inspiration from stuff that other people throw away.

So when the Seattle artist and carpenter brings her “Refuse” exhibition to the Kentucky College of Art + Design at Spalding University later this month, don't be surprised to see a trailer load of trash.

“You can make anything from anything,” Hartwig says.



Hartwig's experience with trash runs deep. Earlier this year she was an artist in residence with a Seattle recycling company, where she had full access to the city's refuse stream and created art from what she found.

Her show in Louisville will be an adaptation of that work, featuring two major installations. One, called Pillar, or Refuse I, is a nine-foot-tall drawing of an amalgamation of materials from the recycling facility—mounted on plywood and displayed behind a section of chain-link fence. Hartwig emptied five Uniball pens to create the drawing, then applied alcohol in parts to introduce shading into the work.

The other installation, Refuse II, is considerably larger. Hartwig is bringing hundreds of pieces she has created over the years, and will construct a trailer—complete with wheels and a hitch—onto which she will arrange the pieces. This piece will take up much of the floor space of KyCAD's 849 Gallery and will be assembled in place in the days leading up to the show's Nov. 30 opening.

"I literally will be getting some found wood and debris when I'm there to put the trash trailer together and actually be building it in the gallery," says Hartwig, who works by day for a Seattle nonprofit teaching carpentry skills to youth so they can design and build homes, bridges and other structures.

Why make art from trash? "I want to ask the question what is valuable and what is not valuable," Hartwig says. "While I'm not claiming to be making a specific statement, I am examining the value of the things we use, make and discard, and in the process examining my own value—my labor, my time."

### **'Refuse:' Art installations by Meg Hartwig**

On view 11.30.17–01.19.18

Opening reception 11.30.17 5pm-8pm

849 Gallery

Kentucky College of Art + Design at Spalding University

849 S. Third St., Louisville, KY 40203

Gallery hours: Thursday/Friday 11:30am-2:30pm or by appointment at 502.873.4373

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THE KENTUCKY COLLEGE OF ART + DESIGN AT SPALDING UNIVERSITY (KyCAD) is a 501(c)(3) started in 2009 with the vision to build one of the top art schools in the nation. Students in the KyCAD program can receive a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art from Spalding University. KyCAD maintains a variety of arts outreach programs, including the 849 Gallery, which showcases rotating exhibitions, lectures and workshops by artists from KyCAD and from across the country. [KyCAD.spalding.edu](http://KyCAD.spalding.edu)