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UCCS Galleries of Contemporary Art presents

M12 STUDIO Black Forest Institute Fireside Dialogues Series

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Colorado Springs, Colorado - UCCS Galleries of Contemporary Art invites the public to a new public artwork, *The Black Forest Institute*, and related Fireside Dialogues Series by M12 STUDIO happening this fall at the Ent Center for the Arts as part of GOCA's Art WithOut Limits public sculpture program and *The Space(s) Between* exhibition. All events are free and open to the public and advance registration is requested – sign up here:

<https://tickets.entcenterforthearts.org/2979/2980>

The September 30th Fireside Dialogue will feature UCCS faculty Dr. Christine Biermann, Assistant Professor of Geography and Environmental Science, where she is Director of the Tree Ring Lab and studies how climate change is affecting Colorado's ecosystems, in particular

forests. Starting at 6:30 p.m., an outdoor fire on the Ent Center for the Arts lower sculpture green will be lit by GOCA staff using wood gathered by the artists at Section 16, a burned area in Black Forest, Colorado. The Fireside Dialogues series will continue with events in October and November, all outdoors and open to UCCS students, staff, faculty, and community alike, with no cost to participate. Future events are scheduled for October 7, October 21, October 28, and November 11, 2021 – learn more here: <https://gocadigital.org/outdoor-exhibitions/m12-bfi-dialogues>

The Black Forest Institute (BFI) is an outdoor public artwork that operates as an experimental art and forestry school. BFI is conceived as an active knowledge-sharing platform around diverse topics. Each event features activation of the wood-burning stove with firewood gathered by M12 STUDIO in coordination with the US Forest Service in Black Forest, Colorado. Portland, Oregon-based artist and beer aficionado Eric Steen will be our guest facilitator for the August 31 event. The artist will be in Colorado Springs marking the 10th anniversary of the Beers Made By Walking program, which highlights wildlands, land trusts and open space as well as water and ecology issues connected to beer and beer brewing and was first launched by GOCA in 2011. Additional events are planned for September 30 with UCCS Geography & Environmental Science faculty Dr. Christine Biermann, October 7 with New Mexico-based artist Nina Elder, and more to be announced soon. Visit www.gocadigital.org/outdoor-exhibitions/m12-bfi-dialogues for more information and to sign up for the list for events.

More about the program |

M12 STUDIO in collaboration with GOCA Director Daisy McGowan have programmed a series of discussions through the Black Forest Institute at the Ent Center for the Arts Sculpture Green. Each Fireside Dialogue is an opportunity for sharing knowledge, stories, and wisdom about our regional forests, trees, and woodlands. The Black Forest Institute is interested in providing space for constructively addressing the complexities of forest fire and related subjects such as fire impact, rural futures, and global climate awareness.

The Black Forest Institute is part of the wide-ranging exhibition The Space(s) Between, curated by Donald Fodness, Daisy McGowan, and Geoffrey Shamos, and is part of GOCA's Art WithOut Limits Public Sculpture program.

UCCS Galleries of Contemporary Art (GOCA) is a regional hub of contemporary art, culture, and conversation. By featuring world-class artists, hosting artist and expert talks, and independently producing and offering meaningful events, GOCA engages UCCS students, faculty, staff and Pikes Peak Region community members in discussions about contemporary culture and life. GOCA is a contemporary arts organization with two galleries, at the Ent Center for the Arts and a satellite downtown location in the Plaza of the Rockies building, as well as an outdoor art program, Art WithOut Limits.

The University of Colorado Colorado Springs, located on Austin Bluffs Parkway in Colorado Springs, is one of the fastest growing universities in Colorado. The University offers 37 bachelor's degrees, 19 master's and five doctoral degrees. UCCS enrolls more than 11,000 students on campus annually and another 2,000 in online programs. For more information, visit www.uccs.edu

Image credit:

M12 STUDIO. ***Black Forest Institute***. Ent Center for the Arts Sculpture Green and UCCS Galleries of Contemporary Art. Colorado Springs, Colorado. 2021. Building Materials, Social Action. Image: M12 STUDIO archive.