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PRESS RELEASE (for immediate release)

MMAM to exhibit paper-cut works by Sonja Peterson

Winona, MN - Minnesota Marine Art Museum (April 28, 2021)

The Minnesota Marine Art Museum (MMAM) in Winona, MN, will be hosting the exhibition *Sonja Peterson: What the Trade Winds Brought* from May 6 to September 11, 2022. There will be an opening reception at MMAM to celebrate the artist and her work on Friday, May 6 from 5:00 to 7:00PM.

Minneapolis, MN artist Sonja Peterson practices psaligraphy, the art of cutting out silhouettes in paper. She creates large-scale artworks, sculptures, and installations from complex and intricately cut paper and other materials. The *Star Tribune* calls her designs “stunning inventions in a virtually forgotten medium.”

What the Trade Winds Brought explores the flora, fauna, and the history of travelers above and below the world’s waters. “My work depicts the impact of invasive species within a variety of ecosystems,” Peterson says. The interplay between her colorful negative backgrounds, shadows, and foregrounds of paper provide a sense of movement and vibrancy to her subjects, in a way that *Hyperallergic* refers to as “dreamlike” and “fantastical.”

Psaligraphy is an artform that has not yet been explored at the Minnesota Marine Art Museum, which opened in 2006. “We are very excited to exhibit Sonja’s large and colorful works and to feature a medium, cut paper, we have not previously exhibited,” says MMAM Curator of Exhibitions Jon Swanson.

In addition to the May 6 opening reception, Peterson will be on site to lead a demonstration of her paper-cutting process during MMAM’s May 14 Seasonal Saturday program from 1:00 to 3:00PM. She will return on Saturday, August 6 to lead a series of Gallery Walk & Talks, where visitors will have the opportunity to explore the exhibition directly with the artist. More information about the exhibition and its related programming can be found at www.MMAM.org.

About MMAM:

The Minnesota Marine Art Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit art museum that engages visitors in meaningful visual art experiences through education and exhibitions that explore the ongoing and historic

human relationship with water. Located in Winona, Minnesota, a short distance from Minneapolis, Minnesota and Chicago, Illinois, the purpose-built museum is located on the banks of the Mississippi River and boasts six galleries, an educational and events space, and a destination retail shop on its seven acre riverside campus. It is through this surprising diversity that MMAM is not only describing what marine art is, but pushing the boundaries of what marine art can be.