

# HILLSBOROUGH

Community College 

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Hillsborough Community College  
Ybor Campus Art Gallery  
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### “Specimens, Observations and Drawings” Recent Work by LINDA ARMSTRONG

Tampa, Fl.—**Linda Armstrong** is the Director of the Visual Arts Program at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, where she has taught sculpture and printmaking for the past 15 years. Her installation, “*Specimens, Observations and Drawings*,” will be on view at Hillsborough Community College’s Ybor Art Gallery from **February 12 through March 12, with an opening reception on Thursday, February 12 from 5-8:00pm.** There will be a special **Gallery Talk at 6:30pm that evening.** The gallery is located in the Performing Arts Building, Palm Ave and 15th Street.

Armstrong works in a variety of media. When she is not teaching classes at Emory, you may find her hiking through the woods in northern Georgia collecting mushrooms. “My fascination with mushrooms began in 2001. Research revealed the long and mysterious history of mushrooms from the ancient Greek belief that they were manifestations of Zeus’s lightning because they appeared after rain, to the present day allure as culinary enhancement,” she says. Armstrong’s transition of mushrooms from food to art happened by accident when she discovered the interesting “drawings and print stains” the fungi had made when left on paper overnight. She has continued to expand the possibilities of organic printmaking and will include in this exhibit bronze castings of a number of specimens.

Linda is an avid environmentalist and enjoys walking the undeveloped beaches at Cumberland Island, Georgia’s southernmost barrier island. “I was savoring my solitude in an idyllic place, and then the next moment I was confronted by the disturbing image of a dead animal, which I later learned was a victim of an immune deficiency disease caused by pollution,” she recalls. Subsequently, she began to notice other ways that human intervention impacted the natural environment, from Mylar balloons that washed ashore from cruise ships to tar from the passing freighters. Charged with new ideas, her work changed. She began a series of installations using the evocative qualities of discarded, environmentally-based materials and island detritus (bones, feathers, oyster shell and moss) to communicate her passion for Cumberland Island and her frustration at the environmental damage sustained to its fragile ecosystem.

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Armstrong holds a BFA from the Atlanta College of Art and an MVA from Georgia State University. She has received numerous fellowships and grants including the Virginiaia Center for the Creative Arts, Yale University School of Music and Art, and the Hambridge Center for the Creative Arts & Sciences. She was the recipient of a grant from the Southern Arts Federation/National Endowment for the Arts in 1992.

HCC gallery hours are Monday and Weds-Friday 10am-4pm and Tuesdays 12 noon-7pm. Call Carolyn Kossar 813.253.7674.

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