



SHARON LYNNE WILSON

CENTER FOR THE ARTS

19805 W. Capitol Drive
Brookfield, WI 53045

Located just south of
198th & Capitol Drive
in Brookfield's Mitchell Park

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photographer Laurel Lueders' exhibit *Nether Realm* opens June 5

Brookfield, Wisconsin (May 18, 2008) Madison-native **Laurel Lueders** exhibits a series of digital images, entitled *Nether Realm*, at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center's Ploch Art Gallery from **June 5–July 25, 2008**. The Ploch Art Gallery is free and open to the public Monday–Friday, 9:00 am–5:00 pm, and Saturday, 10:00 am–2:00 pm.

In 1999, Laurel moved to Germany and has lived there much of the time since. In 2005, she was led by a friend through a newly discovered archaeological site of the medieval city Marlseben, which had been destroyed in c. 1400 AD and uncovered during highway construction. Fascinated by the opportunity to wander through and become intimate with the ruins, Laurel returned to take photographs at different times of day and under a variety of light conditions.

Mining her own background in art history and her fascination with cultural artifacts, Laurel creates deeply layered images, overlapping visual elements of the human form, textures, and artifacts of civilization. Her approach to building up the layered elements in her work is as detailed and methodical as an archaeologist's approach to uncovering the past. A great deal of research and reading, sketches, and hundreds of photographs go into the development of a single work. She uses Photoshop to layer the desired photo images, which she shoots both on site and in the studio. Using a color palette borrowed from Renaissance and Baroque paintings, she brings in details of textiles which she creates herself through hand printing, dyeing, and rusting, often burying the cloth to encourage an element of decay.

When the highway project recommenced and the Marlseben site was covered, Laurel was struck by the resulting tensions between modern industrial needs verses further exploration and preservation of cultural history. "I was intrigued by this cycle: a city built over a city, how cities—and also people—go back to the earth, how it is built and rebuilt, both in a physical way and symbolically."

A special opening reception with the artist will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 12, 2008. There is no admission to attend. RSVP by calling 262.781.9520 or e-mail rsvp@wilson-center.com. Bartender labor is generously donated by Ellen Zilli's Catering.

Images for print and web are available for the artists work.

The Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts is a privately funded, non-profit cultural arts center that offers performances by regional and touring groups, arts education, and an art gallery with changing exhibits. The Center nurtures lifelong learning through innovative programs and classes for all interests, ages, and abilities in state-of-the-art studios and classrooms. Some of Southeast Wisconsin's finest arts organizations offer professional instruction at the Wilson Center, including Danceworks, Inc., First Stage Theater Academy, and the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music. Wisconsin fine artists are showcased at the Hidden River Art Festival in September and in the Ploch Art Gallery with five exhibitions each year. **The Wilson Center for the Arts is just minutes west of Milwaukee, nestled in Brookfield's Mitchell Park south of 198th & Capitol Drive. For information about the Wilson Center call (262)781-9470.**

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