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PICTURE(SQUE): Ellen Harvey Works, 1999-2025
August 24, 2026 – March 6, 2027
USF Contemporary Art Museum

(TAMPA, FL – August 13, 2026) ***PICTURE(SQUE): Ellen Harvey Works, 1999-2025* opens Monday, August 24** at USF Contemporary Art Museum, College of Design, Art & Performance, with an **Artist Conversation and Exhibition Reception presented on Friday, August 28**. The exhibition is on view through March 6, 2027. Admission is Free.

A major exhibition of works by internationally acclaimed artist, Ellen Harvey, will open at USFCAM. Entitled *PICTURE(SQUE)*, the exhibition spans more than two decades of work that spotlights the artist's lifelong quest to draw attention to the revolutionary potential of nostalgia, the relationship between art and tourism, the role of art and the artist in our society, and the social and ecological implications of the picturesque.

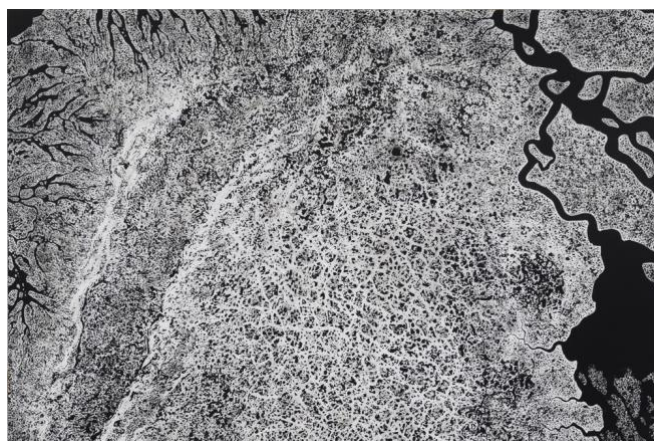
PICTURE(SQUE): Ellen Harvey Works, 1999-2025 presents four major bodies of work by the celebrated Anglo-American artist that honor and question ideas around travel, memory, monuments and history making. Harvey's artworks memorialize lost places and interrogate existing ones; additionally, they turn a warm eye toward human beings' relationships with their lived environment, while asking us to envision new ways of being in the future.

Harvey's 316 painting installation *The Disappointed Tourist* consists of an evolving, participatory response to the question: "Is there a place that you have always wanted to visit or revisit that no longer exists?" Harvey has posed this question on her website since 2019. Suggested answers (they exceed 500 web entries from more than 40 countries) are then turned by the artist into 18 x 24 inch acrylic and oil paintings that resemble antique black and white postcards. These evoke love and nostalgia for disappeared sites ranging from Greece's original Parthenon to Manhattan's fabled music venue CBGB. A democratic exercise in accessing art and art history, *The Disappointed Tourist* operates at both modest and monumental scale—while carrying on an expanded, ongoing, and uniquely horizontal "conversation about our love for our physical environment."

Also included in *PICTURE(SQUE)* is Harvey's large-scale work, *The Mermaid: Two Incompatible Systems Intimately Linked* (2020): a 100-foot-long painting based on a satellite view of Florida that depicts the state's landmass from one end to the other. The painting's halfway point depicts a mermaid-like bifurcation between the Everglades National Park and the greater Miami area.

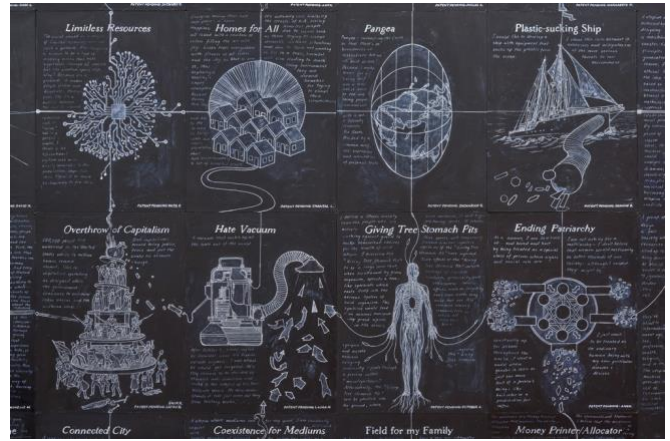


Ellen Harvey, *The Disappointed Tourist* (detail of installation at Turner Contemporary, 2021), 2019-present. 220 paintings in oil & acrylic on wood panels, each 18 x 24 in. Photograph: Thierry Bal.



Ellen Harvey, *The Mermaid: Two Incompatible Systems Intimately Linked* (detail), Ellen Harvey, 2020. Acrylic and oil on 60 aluminum panels, each 40 x 60 in, overall: 10 ft x 100 ft. Photograph: Etienne Frossard.

Harvey's *The New York Beautification Project* (1999-2001) revisits a series of public guerrilla interventions for which the artist painted small, perfectly executed, traditional oil landscapes throughout the city of New York. Experienced at CAM as written and photographic documentation of some forty oval paintings, the work also charts the freighted social phenomenon *The New Yorker* pegged with the headline "Vandal in a Volvo." According to the artist, who is White, part of the project's premise was to knowingly "explore how the reaction to unsanctioned artworks was influenced by the aesthetics of the art and the appearance of the artist." Harvey's individual paintings were made without permission, in daylight, and in full public view of passers-by and police. Whenever anyone objected to the paintings' presence, Harvey immediately removed all traces of them.



Ellen Harvey, *Utopia Machine*, 2024. Acrylic on 100 Alubond panels (each 12 x 16 in). Photograph: Angel Xotlanihua.

Finally, *PICTURE(SQUE)* includes the East Coast debut of Harvey's most recent project: *The Utopia Machine* (2024-). A collaboration with the landmark Getty Foundation's PST ART: Art & Science Collide initiative, the work consists of more than 100 paintings depicting answers by visitors to public libraries to the question: "What would make our world into a utopia?" One typically trenchant byproduct of this interactive artwork: the first 100 utopias were mainly sourced by Harvey from users of the Los Angeles Central Library, many of whom spend their days there because they have nowhere else to go.

These and other works in the exhibition go deep in celebrating and exploring things that exist at the crossroads between the real world and the often-rarefied world of art. Among her projects' primary goals, Harvey writes, are to celebrate "human attachment to places both real and aspirational" and to create "a level playing field in which personal losses and larger cultural losses can meet and be recognized."

PICTURE(SQUE) is curated by Christian Viveros-Fauné, USFCAM Curator-at-Large, and organized by USF Contemporary Art Museum. Support for the exhibition is provided by the Lee and Victor Leavengood CAM Endowment Fund, the Allen W. and Janet G. Root CAM Endowment, and the USF College of Design, Art & Performance.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28: EXHIBITION CELEBRATION ARTIST CONVERSATION

6pm, Barness Recital Hall, USF School of Music (MUS107) - 3755 USF Holly Drive, Tampa, FL 33620

Join for a conversation with artist Ellen Harvey and CAM Curator-at-Large Christian Viveros-Fauné. Free and open to all.

EXHIBITION RECEPTION

7–9pm, USF Contemporary Art Museum (CAM) - 3821 USF Holly Drive, Tampa, FL 33620

A reception follows the conversation until 9pm at USFCAM. Free and open to all.

Additional events will be presented throughout the exhibition.

VISITOR INFO

Admission: Exhibitions and events are free and open to all.

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10am–5pm; Thursday 10am–8pm; Saturday 1–4pm. Closed Sundays and USF Holidays (September 7 Labor Day holiday; November 11 Veterans Day holiday; November 26–28 Thanksgiving holiday; USF Winter Break Dates TBA; January 18 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday)

Address: 3821 USF Holly Drive, Tampa, FL 33620.

Parking: Visitor parking in lot 3B. USF parking permits required, and available at the pay station in the CAM parking lot. Payment is via the ParkMobile app (use zone 9302), or by Visa, MasterCard, or Discover.

Contact: 813-974-4133; caminfo@usf.edu; www.cam.usf.edu.

ABOUT USF CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM

USF Contemporary Art Museum (USFCAM)—part of the College of Design, Art & Performance at the University of South Florida—organizes and presents significant and investigative exhibitions of contemporary art from Florida, the United States and around the world. Serving as a teaching laboratory, USFCAM's curatorial initiatives and educational programs are designed to present the students, faculty, and community with current issues of contemporary art practice, and to explore the role of the arts in society. USFCAM publishes relevant catalogues, presents critically recognized traveling exhibitions and commissions new projects by national and international artists. USFCAM maintains the university's art collection, comprising more than 5000 contemporary art works. The Contemporary Art Museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.