

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Derryfield School

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Natural Attention

Jeffrey Cooper '69, Sara Crisp '76, Emma LeBlanc '05

March 9 – April 17

Reception for the Artists Thursday March 12, 5:30 - 7:00

Manchester: In celebration of fifty years of excellence in arts education, The Derryfield School's Lyceum Gallery and Sculpture Garden will devote its 2014-2015 shows to highlighting alumni artists. The winter show features the range of The Derryfield School's successes in the world of art from three very different professional artists. Presenting work: Jeffrey Cooper '69, Sara Crisp '76, Emma LeBlanc '05.

Jeffrey Cooper '69 graduated from The Derryfield School in 1969 among the first class that entered as freshmen. He studied Engineering at the University of Pennsylvania but was drawn into the art of furniture building after classes at UNH and other workshops. An encounter with the monumental sculpture *Raven and Her Children* by Haida sculptor Bill Reid inspired Cooper's passion for sculpture and public art. This ambition to carve has blossomed into a trademark vocabulary of hand crafted furniture embellished with relief carving. Much in the tradition of the great carvers he admires, Mr. Cooper's reliefs present a story in images. Mr. Cooper has gone on to build notable acclaim for his fine carved handmade furniture. Each piece expresses a deep regard for the place of myth in our lives. These crafted works serve more than function, they capture a living spirit.

Sara Crisp '76 works in encaustic, an ancient method of painting using wax and pigment fused with heat. This process allows her to make many thin, translucent layers as well as embed natural objects. Wax has fluidity and responds to light. Ms. Crisp's work combines this lively medium with natural objects that have similar qualities: butterfly wings, mica, flower pedals. In the background she layers letters, numbers, grids, and natural forms. She describes this design element as "my attempt to select, catalog, and deify aspects of the natural world as they intersect and overlap with the human made world of language, symbol, and spirit." In this exhibition these modest scale paintings draw the viewer into a close up world of soft focus beauty.

Emma LeBlanc '05 is a Rhodes Scholar working on her PhD in Social Anthropology at Oxford. She's currently doing two years of fieldwork among forest workers in rural New Brunswick. The photographs on display in the Lyceum Gallery reveal the depth of her subjects. New Brunswick foresters and local resident are captured by LeBlanc's large

format film camera. The images are startlingly. The viewer can sense the presence of the individual in each portrait. The stilled moment is captured in LeBlanc's precisely crafted compositions without losing the vitality of the individual. There is deep content in these images. LeBlanc reveals proud people facing real social change. The anthropological research LeBlanc is conducting is clearly portrayed in these professional and stirring images.

The show runs from March 9th through April 17th. The Gallery is open from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm weekdays. There will be a reception for the artists on Thursday, March 12th, from 5:30 – 7:00 pm.

See the article at www.derryfield.org/

The Derryfield School is a coeducational, non-sectarian, college-preparatory day school currently serving 380 students in grades 6-12 from over 40 communities. The mission of The Derryfield School is to inspire bright, motivated young people to be their best and provide them with the skills and experiences needed to be valued, dynamic, confident, and purposeful members of any community. For more information about the school, please visit the website at www.derryfield.org.