Sager Braudis Gallery is honored to represent the work of internationally recognized new media artist Katina Bitsicas for the 2018 March Exhibit.

Shown both nationally and internationally, Katina has exhibited in multiple galleries, museums and festivals including Center for Contemporary Art in Santa Fe, NM, HereArt in New York, New York, Videotart Festival Miden in Kalamata, Greece, AIVA Festival in Finspång, Sweden, La Corte Gallery of Contemporary Art in Florence, Italy, the Gezira Art Center in Cairo, Egypt, Traction Arts in Los Angeles, CA, the Grand Rapids Art Museum in Grand Rapids, MI, The Ringling Museum of Art in Sarasota, FL, The Carr Center in Detroit, MI, the Contemporary Art Museum at the University of South Florida in Tampa, FL, Digital Graffiti in Alys Beach, FL, and Gallery Penza in Lansing, MI curated by the late Michael Rush. She also worked as a production assistant on the Academy Award short-listed documentary film Battle for Brooklyn. Katina’s work was recently chosen for 2018 exhibition in The Armory Show in New York.

In the work on view this March, the artist utilizes a combination of video, photography, performance, and fibers media as storytelling tools, to explore traumatic personal events, the after-effects of crime, and various notions of imprisonment. In this work, representations of architecture are analogs for containment of the human psyche. Her investigation of the impact of imprisonment, whether in a jail, asylum, home, or mind, breaks down the victim-perpetrator mentality, and seeks to understand the inner struggles of individuals. By relating others’ stories to her own personal experiences, she is able to engage larger political, social, and psychological issues on an intimate level. Her research for this body of work entailed the physical exploration of former institutions, and her range of artistic output straddles the line between documentation and expressive conceptualism.

Born in East Lansing, Michigan, Katina currently resides in Columbia, MO. She received her BA from Kalamazoo College and Post-Baccalaureate from SADI in Florence, Italy, and was awarded the Elizabeth A. Sackler Museum Educational Trust Scholarship. Katina then received her MFA from the University of South Florida. She is currently the Interim Program Director and an Assistant Teaching Professor of Digital Storytelling at the University of Missouri.

The opening reception for the exhibit is Friday, March 2, from 6 - 9 PM, and is free and open to the public and part of the North Village Arts District First Friday gallery crawl. The exhibit runs February 28 - March 31.

On Thursday, March 15th, Sager Braudis Gallery will host a public screening of Katina’s documentary, which was researched in conjunction with the work in the March Exhibit. The film tells the story of the Fergus Falls Regional Treatment Center, a former state mental hospital located in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. It was built in the Kirkbride plan style, a model established by physician Thomas Kirkbride, and first opened to patients in 1890. Kirkbride asylums were designed to provide “moral treatment” to patients. The hospital closed in 2005 after gradually moving patients to smaller, community-based facilities for two decades. Various proposals have been made to re-purpose the site and buildings since its closure, but to no resolution.

The event on March 15th will begin at 7 PM, with the screening at 7:30 and a talk by the artist and Q&A to follow.

Please contact Gallery Director Hannah Reeves at hannah@sagerbraudisgallery.com for more information.