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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Date: October 23, 2013

What.....Solo Exhibition: Stacey Steers: *Night Hunter*

**Where.....Catharine Clark Gallery, 248 Utah Street
San Francisco, CA 94103**

Exhibition Dates.....November 2 through December 14, 2013

Publications.....Animation Sketchbooks: Chronicle Books, 2013.

**OpeningSaturday, November 2
Reception 4–6pm, Artist walk-through at 3pm**

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San Francisco, CA: Catharine Clark Gallery (CCG) announces *Night Hunter*, a solo exhibition of work by **Stacey Steers**. The exhibition dates are November 2 through December 14, 2013. The artist will be present for the opening reception on Saturday, November 2 from 4 to 6pm and will give a guided walk through at 3pm.

Stacey Steers' first solo exhibition at Catharine Clark Gallery, *Night Hunter*, consists of sculpture, mixed media collages, and shadow boxes—all of which augment and provide context for the display of her riveting video and film work. The exhibit will consist of: screenings of her films *Night Hunter* and *Phantom Canyon*, framed collages from the production process of the films, miniature houses embedded with video screens, shadow boxes, and art books of Steers' animations. Meticulously crafted from thousands of handmade collages, Steers' films have screened at over 100 film festivals worldwide. Her films have been shown at the Lincoln Center and MoMA in New York as part of the New Directors/New Films Festival, the Telluride Film Festival, the Houston Cinema Arts Festival, and the AFI Film Festival in LA. Both *Phantom Canyon* (2006) and *Night Hunter* (2011) were Official Selections at the Sundance Film Festival in 2007 and 2012. Internationally, her films have drawn audiences at the Rotterdam International Film Festival, as well as various other festivals in Spain, Australia, Hong Kong, Italy and Croatia. In her animated films, Steers explores the elemental process of constructing meaning from experience. Rather than employing storyboards, she allows a surreal connectivity between intuited choices to drive her work organically. Her films are driven by subconscious reckoning with memory and longing, and examine themes drawn from the deep terrain of allegory, myth and archetypes.



Video of *Night Hunter* viewed through the windows of *Night Hunter House*

Night Hunter (2011), Steers' most noted work and the namesake of the exhibition, incorporates images of Lillian Gish taken from silent-era, live-action cinema. The narrative unfolds intuitively, and reveals itself in the process of construction. To produce the film, Steers generated over 4,000 paper collages which combine fragments of 19th century illustrations with images from four silent-era moving pictures. Steers' process is painstaking and meticulous—*Night Hunter* took over four years to make, with approximately eight collages required to produce a single second of film time. In some instances, Gish is cut out of specific scenes and reconfigured in collage environments, while collage materials are applied directly to printed film frames in others. The subsequent fluidity becomes a critical element in the texture of the film, and the identity of the principal character. Transitions, both biological and metaphorical, are central themes. The collages were photographed in 35mm on an Oxberry animation stand. Larry Polansky composed the music and sound elements.

Night Hunter House, a handmade three-story Victorian-style dollhouse built to accompany the animated film, will also be on display. Scenes from the film *Night Hunter* are viewed through the windows of this installation piece. Tiny video screens play loops from the film, embedded amidst elaborately decorated rooms filled with tiny light fixtures, antique lace, bird eggs and moth specimens. The resulting dreamscape is at once disquieting and mesmerizing, both beautiful and



Stacey Steers | *Night Hunter House*

haunting. *Night Hunter House*, and the unique experience of the film viewed through this landscape, has exhibited extensively since 2011: before arriving at Catharine Clark for this exhibition, *Night Hunter* showed at Galerie West in the Hague, Netherlands; Tufts University Art Gallery, in Boston; the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art; and The Hood Museum of Art at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire.

Steers' film *Phantom Canyon* (2006), which will be screened in the gallery's dedicated media room, is an exploration of memories, a reflection on a pivotal journey taken many years ago, and a surreal circumnavigation of that experience. Collages composing this film incorporate photocopied elements from 18th and 19th century engravings with figures from Eadweard Muybridge's *Human and Animal Locomotion*, first published in 1887. The Muybridge figures were recombined to create the movements necessary for the narrative flow of the film. *Phantom Canyon*, shot in 35mm, is accompanied by the music and sound design of Bruce Odland.

Several of the most evocative mixed-media collages, selected from thousands produced for both films, will also be featured in this exhibit. These beautiful stills, stand-alone pieces of art in their own right, are critical to the subsequent fluidity and texture of Steers' films. *Animation Sketchbooks*, by Laura Heit, published in July 2013 by Chronicle books, includes Steers' artwork, and features her as one of fifty leading contemporary talents working in independent animation. Copies of the book will be on display and available for purchase at the exhibition.

About Stacey Steers

Stacey Steers makes labor-intensive films composed of thousands of individual, handmade works on paper. Her animations have screened at the Sundance Film Festival, Telluride Film Festival, New Directors New Films in NYC and the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C., along with numerous other screenings worldwide, winning national and international awards. Recently she has begun expanding her work to include installations that reflect on and bring focus to the films by placing production elements and/or film loops in a new context. Her work has been installed at the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C., the Denver Art Museum, and the Hamburger Kunsthalle in Hamburg, Germany among others. Steers is a recipient of major grants from Creative Capital and the American Film Institute. She has been an artist fellow at Harvard University, the MacDowell Colony, the Sacatar Foundation, Ucross Foundation, the Liguria Study Center and Yaddo. She lives and works in Boulder, Colorado. For more information about Stacey Steers, or to access her resume, please contact the gallery: www.cclarkgallery.com or 415.399.1439.

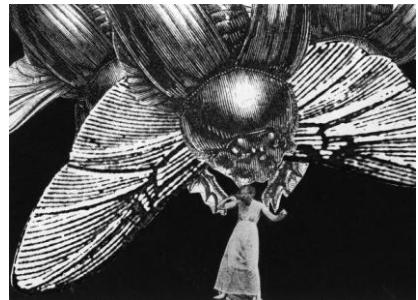
About Catharine Clark Gallery

Established in 1991, **Catharine Clark Gallery** presents the work of contemporary artists. A wide range of media is represented in the gallery's program, emphasizing content-driven work that often challenges the traditional use of materials, formal aesthetics and concept. Catharine Clark Gallery (CCG) was the first San Francisco gallery to create a dedicated media room, presenting new genres and experimental video art with each changing exhibition. Exhibitions are hosted on a six-week schedule and generally feature one or two solo presentations in addition to media room installations. Additionally, CCG regularly participates in national and international art fairs. In September 2014, **Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco** relocated to a historical building and former 1930's door factory at 248 Utah Street. The new gallery location, in an industrial, ground floor space designed by Los Angeles-based Tim Campbell, adjacent to Brian Gross Fine Art and below Hosfelt Gallery, is now open to the public. Near the San Francisco Design Center, Showplace Square and The Wattis, the gallery is situated among numerous arts institutions in San Francisco's Potrero Flats. The gallery hours are Tuesday–Saturday, 11am–6pm. Please visit www.cclarkgallery.com.

In March of 2010, the gallery initiated **Catharine Clark Gallery, New York**, a temporary project space in a residential apartment in New York's Chelsea neighborhood. Installations of gallery artists' work are presented as "pop-up" exhibits at the New York location several times a year (313 West 14th Street, between 8th and 9th Avenues). Please consult the gallery's website for programming.

Advance Exhibition Schedule

November 2 – December 14, 2013 Stacey Steers <i>Night Hunter</i>	December 3-8, 2013 Art Fair: Miami Project Featured Artists include: Nina Katchadourian, Titus Kaphar, Stephanie Syjuco, among others	December 2, 2013 - February 15, 2014 Nina Katchadourian <i>Sorted Books</i>
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Collage from the production of *Phantom Canyon*



Scene from the film *Night Hunter*

