Barbara Bernstein:  
Things are not what they seem,  
nor are they otherwise  
July 16 – August 22, 2009  

Exhibition Fact Sheet  

The Eleanor D. Wilson Museum at Hollins University will originate the first major site-specific exhibition by artist Barbara Bernstein. Barbara Bernstein: Things are not what they seem, nor are they otherwise will encompass the largest space of the museum.

This installation will incorporate architectural references from Hollins University’s campus. Columns, streams, benches and the pattern of the cement pavements in front of the Cocke Memorial Building will be some of the familiar elements. Only black and white materials will be used, with electrical tape, contact paper, construction paper and foam core being the primary materials used.

“I am both sustained and challenged by the traditional principles of drawing such as line, shape and perspective. In my installations, I aim to dispute and expand upon these accepted and customary guidelines in perplexing, amusing and surprising ways. The rooms I build and create invite the opportunity of being able to walk into, and be surrounded and consumed by, illusion.

“Pivotal in an equation of the imaginary is the use of the familiar. I investigate and amplify this illusive yet dynamic inversion of private space and domesticity with the oscillation of inside and outside. The artificial spaces I create playfully challenge true to life perception and perspective. I combine easily recognizable elements such as plants and architecture, but draw and depict them in quirky, skewed or make believe ways. By suspending belief I can, ideally, dismiss cynicism and encourage engaged wonderment.” (Artist’s statement, February, 2009.)

The Eleanor D. Wilson Museum at Hollins University is honored to premiere Barbara Bernstein’s work to Roanoke and the greater mid-Atlantic region.

Barbara Bernstein is the long term Artist in Residence of the Virginia Creative Center for the Arts (VCCA) in Amherst, Virginia. Bernstein has taught at multiple national institutions including Yale University, and her work has been the focus of several national and international exhibitions. The exhibition and programming will include an artist grant workshop given by Bernstein that will be co-sponsored by The Arts Council of the Blue Ridge. The workshop will demystify the process of grantwriting for both individual artists and collaborative projects. In a step-by-step approach, it covers the complete cycle of grantwriting, including preparative research, interaction with funders, budget development, writing proposals, and assessment of the process.

For more information, please visit www.hollins.edu/museum.