NAEMI: Visionaries of the Light

The Gallery at Rauch Business Center

August 28 – December 9, 2017

Gallery Conversation with Ricardo Viera
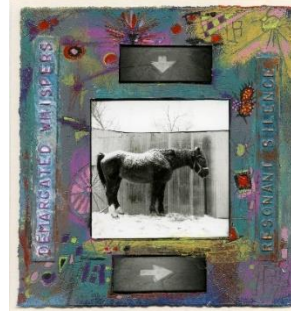September 28, 2017 The Gallery At Rauch 6:00pm

Image: Barbara Rutherford, *Resonant Silence*

Art heals. In 1988, Juan Martin worked as a counselor to mentally ill persons in Miami where he encouraged patients to create art as a way to distract themselves from their troubles. From these beginnings Juan Martin established NAEMI (National Art Exhibitions of the Mentally Ill) to promote these incredible artists and to dispel the negativity associated with mental illness. Lehigh University Art Galleries / Teaching Museum is proud to present a selection from the NAEMI collection in the exhibition **NAEMI: Visionaries of the Light**, curated by LUAG Director/Chief Curator Ricardo Viera. The exhibition explores the wide range of photographic mediums; from pinhole photography, to photo collage, and sculptures incorporating photography from artists that do not conform to any "official pattern."

NAEMI (www.naemi.org) is a non-profit organization dedicated to discovering, studying, promoting, exhibiting, and preserving the art of those struggling with mental illness throughout the world. These artists are typically self-taught and without any formal artistic training. The work arises from the artists' intense, innate personal vision and works as a form of therapy. The public awareness attracted by NAEMI's exhibitions helps artists maintain economic independence and self-confidence.

NAEMI: Visionaries of the Light continues until December 9, 2017 in The Gallery at Rauch Business Center. Hours are Monday – Friday 8am – 10 pm, Saturday 8am – 5pm, and closed Sundays. This exhibition is part of Lehigh Valley Photography Month, November 2017, and the Olympus InVision Photo Festival, November 3-5.

For more information visit our website www.luag.org
Or contact Alexandria Wismer at 610.758.3615 or alw414@lehigh.edu
420 E Packer Ave, Bethlehem PA 18015

LUAG is the Teaching Museum at Lehigh University. LUAG inspires, develops, and promotes visual literacy and cultural understanding through cross-disciplinary educational opportunities that supplement formal classroom study. LUAG's core educational resource is its world-class art collection, which it uses, along with traveling exhibitions from outside the university, to create settings for experiential learning.