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## M E D I A R E L E A S E

### STACKED AND PILED

#### Julie Alpert's Inaugural Portland Exhibition

#### First Thursday Reception on February 6



January 2, 2014 – PORTLAND, ORE., Artist and Pollock-Krasner Award recipient, Julie Alpert comes to Portland Center Stage's Armory Galleries from Seattle, WA in her inaugural Portland exhibition, *Stacked and Piled*. Small and medium-sized works on paper featuring hand-painted patterns that visually investigate ideas of illusion will be on display at The Gerding Theater at the Armory from **January 12 through February 15**. A First Thursday Reception will be held from **6-8 p.m. on February 6**.

A recipient of the MacDowell Colony Fellowship and two GAP grants, Alpert is renowned for her skills as a painter, installation artist and teacher. Inspired by textile design, landscaping and Seattle mid-century architecture, she explores the relationship between the forms and the edge of the page in this new series. "The page becomes a kind of container for the arrangement inside it," Alpert writes, "the same way a yard contains a home, its decorations and its landscaping." In addition to numerous solo shows throughout Seattle, WA, her work was recently presented in a group show at The Hague in The Netherlands.

Alpert's show opens in conjunction with Portland Center Stage's performance of *Chinglish*, a Broadway hit comedy of cultural errors by David Henry Hwang, award-winning playwright of

*M. Butterfly* and *Golden Child*. In *Chinglish*, an American businessman heads to Asia to score a lucrative contract for his family's firm—but the deal isn't the only thing getting lost in translation when he collides with a Communist minister, a bumbling consultant and a suspiciously sexy bureaucrat. The diversity of pattern, color, and texture present in Alpert's series *Stacked and Piled* mingles in the space between discordance and harmony, resonating with the themes of the play. Portland Center Stage's production of *Chinglish* begins preview performances on January 11, opens on January 17 and runs through February 9. Preview tickets start at \$29. Regular tickets start at \$33. A number of special events are planned to highlight the production. More information can be found at [pcs.org/chinglish](http://pcs.org/chinglish) and [pcs.org/inside-pcs/newsroom](http://pcs.org/inside-pcs/newsroom). Information about Julie Alpert's exhibit can be found at [pcs.org/community/#galleries](http://pcs.org/community/#galleries).

Portland Center Stage is proud to support its second year of visual art programming curated by Elizabeth Spavento. The 2013-2014 series will feature works on paper by artists from Portland, OR and Seattle, WA. Spavento is an independent curator and creative talent who organized exhibitions at Open Source Gallery (Brooklyn, NY) and Disjecta (Portland, OR). She is currently curating an interdisciplinary public art project in Seattle, WA that will run through the spring of 2015.

Additional support for *Chinglish* is provided by production sponsors Berry Wealth Strategies, NW Natural, Marcy & Richard Schwartz and Jan & John Swanson. Portland Center Stage's 2013-2014 season is funded in part by Season Superstars Tim & Mary Boyle and Lead Corporate Champion Umpqua Bank; Season Sponsors the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, Oregon Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Regional Arts & Culture Council and Work for Art; and Season Supporting Sponsor KINK fm. The Mark Spencer Hotel is the official hotel partner for Portland Center Stage.

[PORTLAND CENTER STAGE](http://portlandcenterstage.org) inspires our community by bringing stories to life in unexpected ways. Established in 1988 as a branch of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, PCS became an independent theater in 1994 and has been under the leadership of Artistic Director Chris Coleman since May 2000. The company presents a blend of classic, contemporary and original productions in a conscious effort to appeal to the eclectic palate of theatergoers in Portland. PCS also offers a variety of education and

outreach programs for curious minds from six to 106, including discussions, classes, workshops and partnerships with organizations throughout the Portland metro area.

[THE GERDING THEATER AT THE ARMORY](#), located at 128 NW Eleventh Avenue, houses the 590-seat Main Stage and the 190-seat black box Ellyn Bye Studio. It was the first building on the National Register of Historic Places, and the first performing arts venue, to achieve a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum certification. The Gerding Theater at the Armory opened to the public on Oct. 1, 2006. The capital campaign to fund the renovation of this hub for community artistic activity continues.

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