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## M E D I A   R E L E A S E

### Portland Center Stage Exhibits Collage Works by Seattle Artist Serrah Russell “Last to Last”

**April 26 – June 21, 2014**

*Reception with the artist on April 26*



**March 27, 2014 – PORTLAND, ORE.**, Seattle-based artist Serrah Russell will show new collage works in her debut Portland exhibition, “Last to Last,” on view from **Saturday April 26 through June 21** in Portland Center Stage’s Armory Gallery. **A reception with the artist will be held from 6-8 p.m. on Saturday, April 26.**

Russell described these works as a meditation on loss and the inadequacies of language. The artist uses instant film, found imagery and digital photography to create works of collage that investigate the relationship between nature and the human experience. Juxtaposition of seemingly disparate imagery allows shrouded parallels to emerge within her pairings as the new narrative both echoes and contrasts the nature of human experience and physical environments, both domestic and natural.

Russell received her B.F.A. in photography at the University of Washington. She has exhibited extensively throughout Seattle, WA including at the SOIL Gallery, James Harris Gallery and Frye Art Museum. In addition to her exhibition schedule, the artist will be curating the NEPO 5K 2014 Don’t Run. She makes her home and work in Seattle where she is also co-founder of Violet Strays, an online curatorial project with an emphasis on temporality and experimentation.

The artist's show opens in conjunction with Portland Center Stage's performance of [The Last Five Years](#), an emotionally powerful and intimate musical about two New Yorkers in their twenties who fall in love. The title is not only a reference to their relationship, but also a call to the structure of the play itself, with the element of time folding in on itself and echoing the sometimes disorienting quality of love. Cathy tells her story of the courtship backwards, while Jamie tells his story chronologically. Will these two manage to hold on to their prize?

Portland Center Stage is proud to support its second year of [visual art programming](#) curated by Elizabeth Spavento. The 2013-2014 series features works on paper by artists from Portland and Seattle. 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 ALL RISE an interdisciplinary public art project in Seattle that will run through the spring of 2015.

[Portland Center Stage](#) 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. Portland Center Stage is a participant in the Audience (R)Evolution Program, funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and administered by Theatre Communications Group, the national organization for the professional not-for-profit American theater.

[THE GERDING THEATER AT THE ARMORY](#) 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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