GLOUCESTER MA — The Rocky Neck Art Colony Selects Elli Crocker as the season’s First Summer Artist. Former Goetemann Artist Resident, Elli Crocker will exhibit work from a new series she calls Knotted Earth at Gallery 53 on Rocky Neck from May 25 until June 13. The public is invited to the Opening Reception on Saturday, May 27, from 6 to 8 pm at Gallery 53, 53 Rocky Neck Ave., Gloucester, MA.

"The knot as an image is both common and sacred — these patterns of line without beginning or end signify the interconnectedness of everything and a sense of timelessness. The knot binds and entangles, secures and ensnares. We humans are bound to the earth and all the things of it, to our own ancient stories, and the life that is yet to unfold," says Crocker in her artist statement.

The genesis for Knotted Earth was an artist residency in western Ireland in 2014. Crocker was struck by how the earth had been scraped away to fissured rock in the region known as the Burren - both by the elements and by human activity. It is not unlike the experience of traversing the rocky landscape of Cape Ann. "It feels like one can see the bones of the planet and peer into deep layers of human history revealing a tangled skein of sea, land, creature, and story," says Crocker. "We stand on layers of life accumulated over millennia, knowing that we too will become part of these strata of spirit, sand, soil, and stone. We stand on the shoulders of those who stood and crawled and crept before us, as one day we will hold the generations that will succeed us. We stand in gratitude and awe, fear and hope."

Elli Crocker is a Professor of Studio Art at Clark University and maintains a studio in Waltham. She studied art at Smith College as an undergraduate student and received her MFA in Painting from Tufts University / The School of Museum of Fine Arts. She has been actively showing her artwork for over thirty years and was honored to receive a Gordon Goetemann Artist Residency on Rocky Neck in both 2005 and 2007. Primarily a figurative artist, Crocker has long been
concerned with the human relationship to the natural world and how it informs her artistic work. Her family has long ties to Gloucester and she is delighted to continue her warm association with the Rocky neck Artist Colony this spring at Gallery 53.

Gallery 53 on Rocky Neck, located between the Studio and Rudder Restaurants at 53 Rocky Neck Ave, Gloucester is open May 25 to October 15, 10-6 pm, Sunday through Thursday, and 10-8 pm Friday to Saturday. For more information call 978-282-0917.

See Gallery 53 on Rocky Neck on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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The Rocky Neck Art Colony, a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization nurtures excellence in the arts through exhibitions, workshops, residencies and vibrant cultural events for its members and the public. Long renowned for its luminous light, this harbor and coastal location has been a magnet for some of the most revered realist paintings in American art and a catalyst for the progressive ideas of artists from Stuart Davis, Marsden Hartley, Milton Avery, and Nell Blaine, among many others. Today Rocky Neck continues to attract artists and art lovers to a thriving creative community. For up to date information visit rockyneckartcolony.org