**Noyes Museum of Art of Stockton University:**

***Donna Dodson - Zodiac*****: *Identity and Interpretation***

## *For Immediate Release; with photos on* [*Flickr*](https://www.flickr.com/photos/frednoyes/albums/72157685904663075) *and captions below*

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**NOYES GALLERY, NOYES ARTS GARAGE, ATLANTIC CITY, NJ**

The Noyes Museum Galleries are free and open to the public.

**ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.-** The Noyes Arts Garage of Stockton University is the cornerstone of the Arts District in Atlantic City with a mission to promote education, provide resources for emerging artists, and enrich the community.  The Arts Garage houses artists’ studios, galleries, shops, a café, a flexible classroom studio, and hosts special events throughout the year. Opening in June Donna Dodson celebrates the mystical relationship between human beings and the animal kingdom in *Zodiac: Identity and Interpretation*. In her newest body of sculptural work, Dodson has created two parallel series, referencing both the animal characters associated with the Chinese, or Eastern zodiac, as well as the sun signs of the Western zodiac. Dodson’s exhibition offers us a menagerie of compelling creatures carved in wood.

***Zodiac: Identity and Interpretation,* June 13 – September 23, 2018. Opening Reception: *Second Friday,* June 8th, 6 – 8 pm** Donna Dodson is an American sculptor who has been honored with solo shows for her mythic wood sculptures in art museums, galleries and art fairs. In addition, her larger than life goddess figures have been exhibited internationally in sculpture parks and public art projects. In her newest exhibition taking place at the Noyes Garage she discusses the relationships between the astrological world and human identity. Based on birth years from the beginning of time to the present day, the Chinese zodiac assigns an animal to each year in a repeating twelve-year cycle. Each of the twelve animal characters is believed to possess distinct attributes. With roots

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in ancient Egypt and Greece, the Western zodiac is based on astrological constellations corresponding to the sun’s position at birth. Over time, each of these constellations has assumed their own unique mythological identity. Curiously, the zodiac has only rarely been the subject of contemporary art. Carving has taken a new direction in Dodson’s work, and technical surprises and breakthroughs abound. Due to a windfall of wood, she has been able to experiment, creating sculpture in woods such as mulberry, apple, spalted maple, and cherry. The anthropomorphic deities in Dodson’s signature work have morphed into allegories, icons and symbols in which realism and representation play a greater role.

**About:**

**1. Noyes Galleries, Stockton’s Kramer Hall**, 30 Front St., Hammonton, N.J. 08037 • (609) 626-3420 • [**www.noyesmuseum.org**](http://www.noyesmuseum.org)

**2. Noyes Shop**: 5 Second St., Hammonton, N.J. 08037 • (609) 561-8006

**3. Noyes Arts Garage:** 2200 Fairmount Ave., Atlantic City, N.J. 08401 • (609) 626-3805 • [**www.artsgarageac.com**](http://www.artsgarageac.com)

4. **Noyes Gallery, Seaview Resort:** 401 S. New York Rd., Galloway, N.J. 08205 • (609) 626-3420