

ROWAN UNIVERSITY  
**ART GALLERY  
& MUSEUM**

Virginia Maksymowicz  
**THE LIGHTNESS  
OF BEARING**

Exhibition on View  
September 5 - October 28, 2023

Opening Reception and Artist Talk  
Thursday, September 14, 5:00 - 7:00 PM  
Artist talk at 5:30



© Virginia Maksymowicz, *Lenape Woman, Delaware Tribe - Saint-Guilhem-le-Desert Column, France*, Inkjet print on silk, wooden dowels, 42 x 96 inches. Courtesy of Rowan University Art Gallery & Museum.

***The Lightness of Bearing*** is a selection of works by Virginia Maksymowicz that considers the strength and resilience of the female figure in art and architecture. Pulling from antiquity, Maksymowicz blends the mythology of caryatids, architectural columns of women effortlessly bearing the weight of massive architectural structures, with contemporary imagery of women from indigenous and ethnic cultures bearing the weight of ritualistic traditions. Additional works reinforce this conceptual framework with figurative representations and coded sculptural elements. The exhibition includes two new works created as a nod to the University's Centennial that represent the historical spaces that the university occupies. One work honors the Lenni-Lenape who were the original inhabitants of the land and who are still living here today. The other is an installation inspired by the Hollybush mansion and Josephine Allen Whitney. Likened to a 19th-century version of the caryatid, Josephine bore the weight of raising seven children but is largely absent from the historical record. As a metaphor for sorting out fragmented memories of the past, Maksymowicz creates a Hollybush-inspired room as a chaotic jumble of architectural elements and plaster casts made from the actual crown moldings found there.

**Bio**

Virginia Maksymowicz received a B.A. in Fine Arts from Brooklyn College of the City University of New York (1973) and an M.F.A. in Visual Arts from the University of California, San Diego (1977). She has exhibited her work at the Franklin Furnace, Alternative Museum, the Elizabeth

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Foundation and Grey Gallery in New York City; the Mitchell Museum in Illinois; the Michener and Woodmere Museums in Pennsylvania; and in college, university, and nonprofit galleries throughout the U.S. and abroad. She is a past recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship in sculpture (1984), and over the years has been honored with other grants and awards including as a CETA artist (1978-79), a federally-funded program that employed 10,000 artists nationwide. Her artwork has been reviewed in *Sculpture Magazine*, the *New York Times*, *New York Newsday*, the *New Art Examiner*, and the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Her series, *The History of Art*, appears on the cover of *The Female Body*, published by the University of Michigan Press.

## Image Credits

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Artwork featured: © Virginia Maksymowicz, *Lenape Woman, Delaware Tribe - Saint-Guilhem-le-Desert Column, France*, Inkjet print on silk, wooden dowels, 42 x 96 inches. Courtesy of Rowan University Art Gallery & Museum.



Installation view of *The Lightness of Bearing*, 2023, Artwork by Virginia Maksymowicz. Photo Credit: Constance Mensh. Courtesy of Rowan University Art Gallery & Museum.

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Installation view of *The Lightness of Bearing*, 2023, Artwork by Virginia Maksymowicz.  
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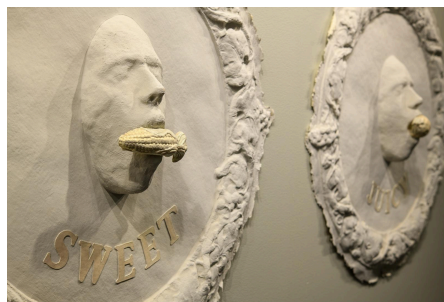


Installation view of *The Architecture of Memory*, 2023, Artwork by Virginia Maksymowicz.  
Photo Credit: Constance Mensh. Courtesy of Rowan University Art Gallery & Museum.



Installation detail of *The Architecture of Memory*, 2023, Artwork by Virginia Maksymowicz.  
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Installation detail of *Garden of Earthly Delights*, 2023, Artwork by Virginia Maksymowicz.  
Photo Credit: Constance Mensh. Courtesy of Rowan University Art Gallery & Museum.



Installation view of *The Lightness of Bearing*, 2023, Artwork by Virginia Maksymowicz.  
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