

Bergren Forum speaker to talk on the magic of presence

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Laurel Carpenter, a performance artist and assistant professor of fine arts at Alfred University, will speak on "The Magic of Presence: Performance Art and Alchemy" on April 19, 2007, at the Bergren Forum, at 12:10 p.m. in the Nevins Theater, Powell Campus Center, Alfred University. Carpenter will discuss the process and presentation of some of her recent performance pieces and the work's intersection with intimacy, belief and transformation. Imprinting the space with repetitive and focused deeds, the artist conjures a kind of quiet alchemy, inducing herself -- and often viewers -- into a subtly altered condition or a fervent investment in the outcome. In this work, in every way, she seeks the magic of being richly and intensely present. The Bergren Forum, sponsored by the Alfred University Division of Human Studies, meets Thursdays during each academic semester at the University. Participants are encouraged to bring a lunch; coffee and tea will be available.