

The Loading Dock Gallery
Western Avenue Studios
122 Western Avenue, Lowell, MA

Show: **Degringolade**
Show Dates: March 4 - March 29, 2015
Opening Reception: Saturday, March 7th, 5:00-7:00 PM

Degringolade means quick deterioration. This March at the Loading Dock Gallery, art arises from natural decay and purposeful destruction. **Degringolade** features abstract oil paintings by Janet Wolahan, together with rust and eco-print encaustic works by Renee Mallett. The opening reception on March 7 is a featured event in Lowell Women's Week.

These artists draw energy from the natural, transformative process of aging and decline. Says Mallett, "Sometimes an item has to be broken down to its more basic parts in order for the thing to be rebuilt or reused in a new way." Wolahan says "the ever-changing view of the auto parts yard from my studio window is a visual feast" and has yielded a series of work depicting the destructive end of automotive life.

Mallett uses actual rust in her works, and one series is inspired by fordite, a baked enamel which is a by-product of the car manufacturing process. Wolahan makes thick impasto paintings based on the wrecks in an auto parts yard which are "damaged, crushed, heaped, rusted and ripped apart. Like people, cars become more interesting as they age and experience the ravages of life."

Both Mallett and Wolahan have created art since childhood. A writer and a visual artist, Mallett remembers making up stories with her father before she could write. She "purposely pursued my Bachelors in creative writing at an art school so I could have the opportunity to also take classes in the visual arts that interested me." Wolahan remembers "always drawing and making art." She received her BFA from Massachusetts College of Art.

Mallett lives in southern New Hampshire. Wolahan is a resident of Boxborough. Both have studios at Western Avenue Studios in Lowell.

Degringolade runs at the Loading Dock Gallery from March 4 through March 29, 2015. The opening reception will be Saturday, March 7, from 5:00-7:00 pm. It is a featured event in Lowell Women's Week. Regular gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday, noon to 5:30pm, and Sunday, noon-4:30. For more information, visit theloadingdockgallery.com, email info@theloadingdockgallery.com or call 978-656-1687.