

MILLS COLLEGE
ART MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Nine/Through the Void*, the Last MFA Exhibition of the Singular Mills College**

View the work of the final Mills College MFA cohort before the college merges with Northeastern University this summer.



NINE/THROUGH THE VOID: 2022 MILLS COLLEGE MFA EXHIBITION

APRIL 30 – MAY 29, 2022

OPENING RECEPTION: SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2022 | 5:00-7:00 PM | ART MUSEUM

Oakland, CA (April 4, 2022) – Mills College Art Museum is pleased to present *Nine/Through the Void*, the final MFA thesis exhibition of the singular Mills College. This annual exhibition presents the work of graduating MFA candidates from Mills College's esteemed Studio Art program. This year's presenting artists are Shelley Carlisle, Mittie Cuetara, Shuriya Davis, Maria-Lucilia Gorre, Markus Kager, Hannah Pozen, Ambrose Prince, Kelsey Rae Thomas, and Pat. Woolf.

Presented as a group exhibition in MCAM's historic main gallery, *Nine/Through the Void* showcases a final body of work from each graduate, curated by museum director Stephanie Hanor and Mills College's distinguished studio art faculty. Commanding a range of strategies—painting, sculpture, installation, video, and more—these emerging artists venture into fresh conceptual and material terrain, inviting the viewer to contemplate grief and grieving, memory and identity, and their relationships with nature and the built environment.

THE ARTISTS

SHELLEY CARLISLE uses photography, collage, video, and installation to explore themes and stories of the Sacred Feminine. Nature symbolism, numerology, mythology, and ancient cultures highlighted with contemporary elements are templates to evoke remembrance of our spiritual selves and honor feminine energies and archetypes. She creates meditative, reflective environments with her own music and photographs, mirror, film, and projection to inspire reflection.

MITTIE CUETARA uses drawing as a way to process the world, particularly its social dynamics. She makes works on paper and dimensional cardboard collages that are often about domestic space and the power dynamics of who and what we historically value.

Oil paints leave behind reminiscences of past ideals. **SHURIYA DAVIS** continuously layers oil paints in a kind of “power painting,” removing information but allowing hyperlinks towards deeper conversation. The connections between form and subject matter seem premeditated and yet so much within her hand shows a willing embrace toward change.

MARIA-LUCILIA GORRE combines sound, video, drawing, installation, and photography to capture the ephemeral moments that connect us and transform the everyday into the sublime. Working with both physical materials and digital tools, she attempts to create harmony between nature and technology, living in-between impulse and intention, structure and chaos.

MARKUS KAGER lets inks react to the environment to collect the dynamics of our planetary atmosphere. An abstract image: dots, lines, planes, and colorful structures are created by earth, wind, rain, and the sun. A playful conversation between macro and micro and the artist in between.

HANNAH POZEN uses painting, ceramics, and suspension to explore magical relationships shared between narrative, loss, and personal objects. Focusing on Jewish identity, mourning ritual, and comfort, she creates object-driven explorations in isometric perspective shifts to probe into the multivalent emotional landscapes of tender things and moments we share when navigating grief.

AMBROSE PRINCE is interested in process, material, and developing different visual languages. His current work uses painting and wood sculpture to recreate memories and transform them into poignant tales about family, memory, trauma, and identity.

KELSEY RAE THOMAS works in sculpture, installation, and performance to better understand how the body is impacted and affected by outside conditions, both in terms of interpersonal family dynamics and

larger social structures such as gender and class. The driving force behind her work is to unearth and understand the various factors of her past that have caused psychological trauma in order to fully claim and move beyond them.

PAT. WOOLF's art is a public journal of sorts. His work includes a combination of paintings, drawings, and modules. He is interested in blurring the lines between the natural and built environment, and in turn, questions how these environments shape us, from the social and political spheres, all the way down to the most intimate areas of our lives.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Opening Reception

Saturday, April 30, 2022

5:00-7:00pm, Art Museum

Congratulate the graduating MFA student on the culmination of their graduate studies at Mills, and their continuation of an exciting artistic practice. Refreshments provided. Masks are required inside the gallery regardless of vaccination status.

Thought Vibrations: Live

Saturday, April 30, 2022, 6 pm

Art Museum

A live improvisational musical and visual performance during the opening reception chronicling the changing seasons and emotional phases of MFA grad Maria-Lucilia Gorre's time at Mills College. The music will be composed on the spot with an analog synthesizer, and visuals created in response to the music using a lightbox, string, transparencies, and a document camera projecting the image onto a wall.

Easy Animation with Shelley Carlisle

Tuesday, May 3, 2022, 6 pm

Instagram Live: @millsartmuseum

Let 2022 MFA grad Shelley Carlisle show you how to create a fun, simple, and effective animation out of cut out material. All you need are 3-5 cutouts of a favorite scene or character to animate, your smartphone, a shoebox, and the Stop Motion Studio Pro app.

Drawing Cartoon Expressions with Mittie Cuetara

Wednesday, May 11, 2022, 6 pm

Instagram Live: @millsartmuseum

Using a piece of paper and any drawing tool you have on hand, join 2022 MFA grad Mittie Cuetara for a dynamic lesson on drawing cartoon expressions.

Visit mcam.mills.edu for details.

About the Mills College Art Museum

Founded in 1925, Mills College Art Museum is a forum for exploring art and ideas and a laboratory for contemporary art practices. Through innovative exhibitions, programs, and collections, the museum engages and inspires the intellectual and creative life of the Mills community as well as the diverse audiences of the Bay Area and beyond. mcam.mills.edu

Museum hours: Tuesday-Sunday 11:00am-4:00pm, Wednesday 11:00am-7:30pm

Admission is FREE and open to the public.
