

Mills College  
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# MILLS

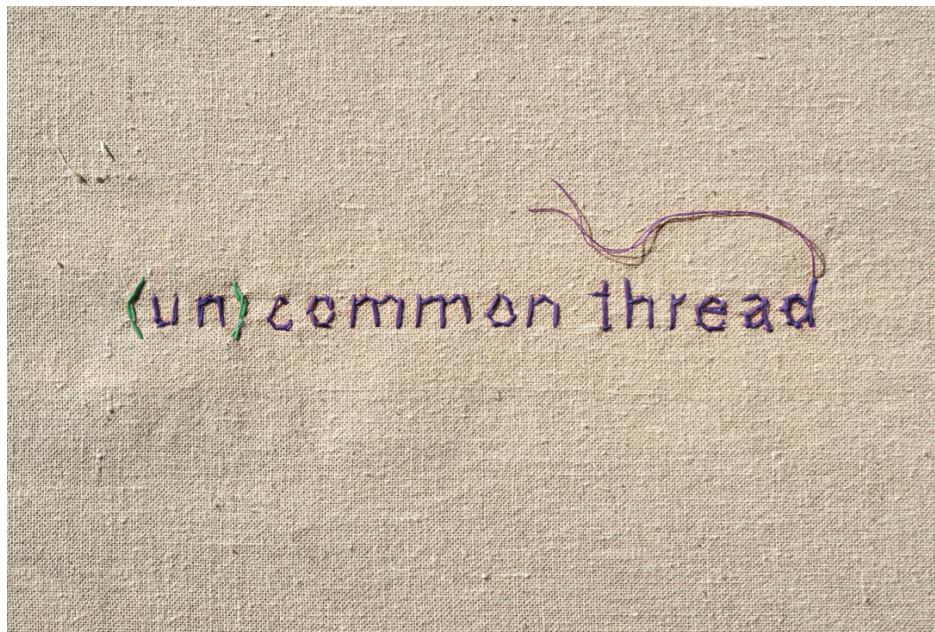
## PRESS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 13, 2015



## **(un)common thread**

Mills College Senior Thesis Exhibition  
March 31-April 19, 2015

**Opening Reception: Saturday, April 11, 2014 | 5:00-7:00 pm | MCAM**

**Oakland, CA—March 13, 2015.** The Mills College Art Museum is pleased to announce *(un)common thread*, the 2015 Senior Thesis Exhibition on view from March 31-April 19, 2015. An annual exhibition featuring the work of graduating Studio Art Majors, the Senior Thesis Exhibition provides a unique opportunity to these young artists—for many of them, their first exhibition in a professional art museum. This year's presenting artists are Evelyn Aponte, Char Colton, Kelly Hird, Monica Medeiros, Brooke Porter, Claire Sanchez, Makaiwa Tong, France Viana, and Avery Ziegler.

Working in a wide range of mediums from painting, sculpture, photography, ceramics, and book arts, the artists in *(un)common thread* work in traditional as well as conceptual frameworks to create engaging art that challenges the viewer. The caliber of work coming out of this year's graduating class is anything but common.

## THE ARTISTS

**Evelynn Aponte** works with painting and photography as a way to revive past memories of her family and home. She chooses imagery that reflects her cultural identities and embroiders them as a way to physically connect her to her work.

**Char Colton** works with painting, photography, and ceramics to explore themes of organized chaos, non-human scale, physical or universal design, and the conceptual sublime. Using organic and chemical processes while relying on the element of chance, Colton's patterns of abstraction appear geological, biological, and astronomical.

**Kelly Hird** uses fine art materials and discarded plastic to create paintings that use crystallization as a metaphor for urban growth and the accumulation of synthetic materials that are transforming our landscapes and oceans. Her work questions societal perceptions of value, memory, and impermanence.

**Monica Medeiros** explores her small town upbringing through a personal archive of memory and ephemera. Layered beeswax and charcoal drawings are accompanied by photographs and book and paper crafts to create an engaging narrative of tradition, absurdity, and camaraderie.

**Brooke Porter** uses photography to explore locations of forgotten radical history in Oakland, California. Through the process of layering images, Porter builds tension between the preservation and deterioration of this history manifesting an archive of an unmarked and overlooked past.

**Claire Sanchez** begins with memories of people and places, as well as literary reflections, to make watercolor abstractions, prints, and artists' books. Her Southwestern landscapes, Rorschach swatches, and simple line drawings highlight her material-responsive process, inviting viewers into psychological recesses.

**Makaiwa Tong** is a native Hawaiian Christian artist who explores the survival of traditional Hawaiian culture in a contemporary lifestyle. Through her ceramic works and abstract paintings she seeks to visually represent hope and restoration within the context of her faith.

**France Viana** documents *Kayumanggi*—the unique word for Filipino skin color. Using an ethnographic approach, she photographs hundreds of volunteers from the Filipino American community to obtain a statistically significant average color. In 2015, she trademarked the color *Bay Area Kayumanggi 2015*.

**Avery Ziegler** experiments with how perspective and spatial concepts are altered when a composition is both opaque and transparent. By testing the materiality of acrylic paint, ink, and pouring medium on transparent paper, she adds and subtracts layers to create a fluid-like picture plane that appears to be frozen in a two dimensional space.

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### About the Mills College Art Museum

Founded in 1925, The 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](http://mcam.mills.edu)

Museum hours are Tuesday-Sunday 11:00 am-4:00 pm and Wednesday 11:00 am-7:30 pm. Admission is FREE for all exhibitions and programs unless noted.

