



475 Park Avenue at 57th Street, New York, New York 10022
Tel: (212) 355-4545 Fax: (212) 355-4547 www.forumgallery.com

Robert Fishko, *Director*

JEAN PIERRE ARBOLEDA
(MFA 2006)

Jean Pierre Arboleda was born in Quito, Ecuador. He grew up fascinated with animals and nature and loved to draw and paint throughout his childhood. He moved as a young adult to New York City, where he received his BFA in Illustration at the School of Visual Arts and his Master's degree in Fine Art at the New York Academy of Art.

Jean Pierre Arboleda's lifelong passion for animals and nature evolved to encompass topics such as evolutionary change, environmental toxicity, and war. The very humanoid qualities Jean Pierre gives to his animals invite the viewer to be drawn into their souls. The feelings of peacefulness, beauty, struggle, and spirituality coincide to create a world where creatures emerge as fellow stewards of the earth. His paintings provoke thought and compassion for our counterparts and encourage us to empathize with their reality as humanity's impact grows ever larger in their world.



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JOAN BENEFIEL
(MFA 2007)

Artist Joan Benefiel (b.1974) makes expressive gestural sculptures that are inspired by the human figure in motion and dramatic natural landscapes. Joan has lived and worked in New York City since 1999, receiving her first monumental public art commission in 2005 while earning her MFA from the New York Academy of Art. Joan's practice is committed to the continuous growth of her sculptural style in plans for new, inclusive works of art designed for spaces that are fully accessible to the public. To bring her ideas to life, she founded Figuration L.L.C. in 2008 in Brooklyn. In collaboration with Partner Jeremy Leichman, the studio is known for its expertise in both traditional and cutting-edge sculpture materials and methods.

For more than a decade prior, she managed bronze sculpture foundries after mastering that art of lost wax casting as a production technician in the late 90's. Today, Joan is interested in exploring the narrative power of simple human gesture and building engaging choreographies of light, color, movement, and shadow. She achieves this through her innovative process honed over many years that blends ancient and state-of-the art sculpting, carving, molding, and enlarging techniques resulting in unusual pieces that are at once contemporary and timeless. She begins by hand-building her original forms in clay, plaster, and wax, ultimately enlarging, and casting them in translucent resin, bronze, or steel. Joan counts the towering Hoodoo rocks of Utah as a primary influence, appreciating the challenge they present in discerning where rock ends and figures appear to begin. She creates a similar relationship in her increasingly abstracted work, leaving viewers wondering if the figures are emerging or disappearing, or even there at all.

Joan's sculptures have been collected in numerous private collections and installed in a broad range of public spaces across the country from New York City to California. Most recently, her studio won a commission for their design of a monumental new bronze and cement Anne Frank memorial for the grounds of the Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, AR, and for a new Arts District Gateway in the City of Rome, NY, both slated for installation in 2024



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ARD BERGE
(MFA 1997)

Ard Berge received his M.F.A. in Painting from the New York Academy of Art in 1997. He was awarded a B.F.A. in Painting and Printmaking from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1995, which incorporated two semesters study abroad at the Art Institute of Florence in Italy. His postgraduate education also included a year and a half residency at Jacob Collins' Water Street Atelier in Brooklyn, New York.

In 1999, Ard Berge joined the faculty of Felician University in Lodi and Rutherford, New Jersey where he currently serves as Professor of Art in the Art Department and teaches courses devoted to drawing, painting, art history, and senior seminar.

Berge has exhibited widely—with solo shows at Art First Contemporary Art gallery in London; Iona College in New Rochelle, New York; and at the Queensborough Community College Art Gallery in Bayside, New York. His research and creative pursuits explore the American landscape as sites of cultural definition and transformation.

In 2001, he was invited by the U.S. Department of State to conduct workshops in Angola with Antonio Olé. Ard Berge has also been awarded artist's residencies at the Santa Fe Art Institute in 2002 and Acadia National Park in 2012. Berge has additionally taught at the New York Academy of Art and Bergen Community College and led painting workshops in Acadia National Park.

He lives and works in Manhattan.



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MIRIAM CAROTHERS
(MFA 2023)

Miriam Carothers makes paintings that synthesize the effects of technology on culture. Her adapted symbols depict imagined scenarios impacting the error budget of systems we depend on. Glitches, screens, signal loss, static, and broken avatars in ecstatic fits of liberation figure in her work. She pulls the untouchable scroll datastreams down out of the air and places them on canvas.

Miriam attended Pratt Institute and received her MFA from New York Academy of Art in 2023.

Recent exhibitions include Spring Break Art Show 2020 & 2023; Viborg Kunstal Gallery, Denmark; Simons Center for Geometry and Physics, Stonybrook University LI; SELECT Art Fair, Art Basel, Miami; Gallery SENSEI, NYC; Lodge Gallery, NYC; Superchief, Brooklyn; Royal Society of American Art, Brooklyn.

Carothers lives and works in Brooklyn.



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JENNY CHI
(MFA 1998)

Inspired by the human figure, Jenny Chi paints in a style reminiscent of the old masters, conducting a personal, sometimes rather sly dialogue with the Italian Renaissance in particular. Her amicable appropriation of the Best of the West makes one aware of art not just as finished work but as a way of seeing, an inexhaustible language that can be learned and shared and always retains the power of saying new things.

Jenny's many awards and honors include the White House Blue Ribbon Christmas Project, the Duval County Artist in Residence, Carl Steinsieck Memorial, and George Sugarman Foundation. Her recent mini documentary series is aired with the Urbana Public Arts Program in episode 84 of "Art Now." She is currently Professor in the Department of Art + Design at Eastern Illinois University, where she teaches courses in Painting and Drawing.

Graduated from New York Academy of Art, Jenny is an active artist and educator who travels extensively in Italy.



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ALLY COTTON
(MFA 2025)

Ally Cotton was born in Alexandria, Virginia in 2000. She graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a BFA in studio art and a minor in art history. She is currently living in New York City and is enrolled in the Masters of Fine Arts program at the New York Academy of Art, where she studies various oil painting techniques and frequently works from a live figure. Her work has been exhibited in several shows in Austin, as well as in the Academy's Tribeca Ball and Open Studio events in New York City.



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DENIS DALESIO
(MFA 2020)

Denis Dalesio is a painter from Norwalk, CT. He received his BFA from Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts and MFA from the New York Academy of Art. His work has been featured in multiple group shows worldwide, including the 2019 British Portrait Awards. Over the years, he has developed a strong understanding of traditional and contemporary techniques. These techniques include oil painting, observational drawing, anatomical study, and digital painting.



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STEPHANIE DESHPANDE
(MFA 1999)

Stephanie Deshpande (b. 1975) is a representational painter living in northern New Jersey. She is known for her psychological portraits, narrative paintings, and emotive floral compositions. Her work combines her love of realism with personal allegories. Deshpande earned a BFA in Painting from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst before pursuing her MFA at the New York Academy of Art. She was honored with the Ellen Battell Stoeckel Fellowship to attend the Yale Summer School of Music and Art. Deshpande is a Signature Member of the Portrait Society of America and has received recognition from the Art Renewal Center, Allied Artists of America, and Oil Painters of America. Her artwork has been featured in prominent museum exhibitions, including those at the Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown, OH, the Wausau Museum of Contemporary Art in Wausau, WI, and the MEAM in Barcelona, Spain. Her paintings appear in issues of *Fine Art Connoisseur*, *American Art Collector*, *The Artist's Magazine*, *PoetsArtists Magazine*, and *International Artist*. Her work is showcased in the book *40 Contemporary Great Masters of Portrait Painting* by the Editorial Staff of *The Art of Watercolour* magazine, as well as in *21st Century Figurative Art: The Resurrection of Art* by Jan Esmann. In 2014, the New Britain Museum of American Art acquired her painting "Assembling the Pieces" for their Post Contemporary collection. Additionally, her portrait honoring the life of Cynthia Graham Hurd St. is housed in the permanent collection of the Andrews Library in Charleston, SC. Her artwork is part of The Magazzu Collection, the esteemed art collection of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Magazzu. Deshpande's work is also included in The Peregrine Collection and the Lunar Codex payload, digital collections of artwork sent to the Moon curated by Samuel Peralta.



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PETER DRAKE
(Provost)

Peter Drake's art has been featured in 28 Solo exhibitions and his work is held in numerous private, corporate and public collections throughout the US, China and Europe including the Whitney Museum of Art, Phoenix Museum of Art, MOCA LA, Weatherspoon Art Museum and the L.A. County Museum of Art, among others.

Peter Drake is a painter whose work is monumental, playful and uncanny. Whether depicting moments of everyday life or miniature toys, working in full technicolor or subtractively (sanding away at the surface), Drake thinks of his paintings as Giotto meets Vermeer on the way to David Lynch's house.

Drake's Waiting for Toydot, a MTA Arts & Design permanent public art commission for the Long Island Railroad (LIRR) Massapequa Station opened to the public in 2015. Waiting for Toydot features 18 art glass windows and 5 ceramic/glass mosaics installed throughout the train station and is seen by over 6,000 commuters daily.

He has received a National Endowment for the Arts Award, a New York Foundation Fellowship and is a two-time recipient of the Two Trees Cultural Space Subsidy Program Grant. Drake maintains a studio in Dumbo, Brooklyn and is represented by Linda Warren Projects, Chicago & Los Angeles, Healy Contemporaneo, San Miguel de Allende, Mexico and Craighead Green Gallery, Dallas.

His work has been written about in Art in America, Artpulse, (t)here Magazine, Newsday, BmoreArt, Flash Art, Interview, The New York Times, Art & Antiques, Artists Magazine, Huffington Post, Time Out, Living and Sustaining a Creative Life: Essays by 40 Working Artists, Art at Eaton Center, The Figure, New York's Underground Art Museum: MTA Arts & Design and Launching Your Art Career: A Practical Guide for Artists.

Drake actively lectures and curates. Curatorial projects include We Are Family co-curated with Clifford Owens, Figurative Diaspora: The Migration of Academic Training from Russia to China in the Service of Progressive Art, co-curated with Mark Tansey, Piss and Vinegar: Two Generations of Provocateurs, co-curated with George Adams, Beautiful Beast, a contemporary representational sculpture exhibition, The Big Picture, and Now and Then: Drawings from the 19th Century to the Present, in partnership with the Dahesh Museum of Art. Drake previously was a curator for The Drawing Center in New York City and wrote for Flash Art Magazine.

He serves on the Advisory Committee for the Weil Art Exchange based in Mallorca, Spain and served as a board member of the Artist Fellowship, Inc. from 2015-18. He was a jurist for Base Istanbul 2017, the AXA Art Prize 2018-2024 and was a juror for the second Velazquez Global Painting and Sculpture Competition.

Drake is presently the Provost at the New York Academy of Art, a progressive figurative and representational graduate program in lower Manhattan and he continues as a MFA Thesis Advisor having taught previously at Parsons the New School for Design, SVA, and MICA.

Peter Drake was born and raised in Garden City, Long Island and lives in Manhattan.



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PRECIOUS EBOIGBODIN
(MFA 2025)

Precious Eboigbodin is a multidisciplinary artist from Nigeria who likes to explore in various mediums and techniques to express his artistic ideas. He earned a Bachelor's in sculpture at Auchi Polytechnic Nigeria in 2021 and he's currently pursuing a master's degree in sculpture at the prestigious New York Academy of Art. Precious Eboigbodin's works are strongly influenced by nature, capturing its beauty as a means of appreciation and conservation to nature. His works help to promote environmental sustainability by up-cycling and transforming waste objects into aesthetic works of art. He's also creating a niche for himself repurposing the use of silverwares as a means of his visual representation to depict both human and animal forms in a realistic and stylized approach. In his current work, Precious Eboigbodin explores the theme of expressionism as a language of form capturing a deep sense of emotion.



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ALAINA PLOWDREY FOREHAND
(MFA 2011)

Alaina Plowdrey Forehand, a New York Academy of Art alumna, is a Michigan native who lives and works in Florida. Through her artwork, she considers the philosophical concept of the beholder's share, specifically regarding the visual embodiment of the figure. Forehand situates an approachable yet curious reality for the beholder to enter and share authorship through blended compositions of abstract and representational elements. Forehand's Ph.D. dissertation topic urges a call for an evolved critique of contemporary art, particularly figurative art. She posits that the contemporary beholder is inherently transdisciplinary through a collective social, scientific, and philosophical awareness that enriches an understanding of themselves and the world. Therefore, to truly reflect the contemporary person, the critique of art must evolve from a formalist and postmodern approach into one that incorporates various disciplines, including cognitive neuroscience, phenomenology, and aesthetic philosophy. Forehand is the recipient of an artist residency with The Studios of Key West and an Anne McKee Artist grant. She has shown her work in numerous national solo and group exhibitions, including the Pensacola Museum of Art and the Realism Biannual at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art. Her artwork has been published accompanying creative writing in literary reviews, and she has presented her research at the Southeastern College Art Conference (SECAC), Southeast Association for Continental Tradition (SEACT), the University of Michigan, Southern Humanities Conference, and Women in STEAM.



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JODI GERBI
(MFA 2016)

Jodi Gerbi is an oil painter living in New Jersey who depicts human resilience through her photo realistic portrayals of the urban still life objects found in her daily life.

Jodi has earned an MFA from the New York Academy of Art and a BFA from Syracuse University. Her work has been shown at Aqua Miami, Monmouth Museum, Sotheby's, and the Flowers Gallery in New York as well as the gallery, MK Apothecary in Collingswood, New Jersey, and Fort Works Art, Fort Worth, Texas. She currently paints at Mana Contemporary in Jersey City, New Jersey.



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DANIELLE GOLDEN
(MFA 2024)

Danielle Golden (b. 1993, Los Angeles) is a New York City based painter. Working exclusively in oil, her figurative work focuses primarily on self-portraits of her own body. Golden has exhibited in a number of group shows in New York City. She completed her Master of Fine Arts at the New York Academy of Art where she was awarded a membership with the National Association of Women Artists.



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ADA GOLDFELD
(Faculty)

Ada Goldfeld is a painter who currently lives and works in Ridgewood, Queens. She graduated from the dual-degree program between the School of the Museum of Fine Arts and Tufts University, receiving a BFA in studio art and a BA in art history and religion. In 2018, she completed an MFA in painting at the Rhode Island School of Design. Her work has been shown nationally, including at Morgan Lehman Gallery, Asya Geisberg Gallery, and Abigail Ogilvy Gallery.

Goldfeld's paintings are similar to vignettes, each capturing a quiet, everyday moment that holds deeper significance. Most recently, she has turned her attention to domestic spaces that teeter between very different emotional states. Using transparent layers of oil paint, she explores the tension between feeling comfortable, while also burdened, on edge, or trapped. Alongside her studio practice, Goldfeld has taught painting, drawing, and design at Marymount Manhattan College, Wagner College, and Bergen Community College. In the fall, she will be a visiting assistant professor of painting and drawing at the College of Charleston



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LING GUI
(MFA 2023)

Ling Gui is a sculptor based in New York City, specializing in clay as her primary medium. A graduate of the New York Academy of Art, Ling's current focus is on creating intricate bas-relief sculptures that encapsulate scenarios within limited frame sizes. As a foreigner living in the United States, Ling navigates the complexities and constraints of immigration status, a reality that profoundly influences her recent art. Her work reflects the juxtaposition of sorrow and joy—an emotional landscape shaped by the challenges and opportunities of her adopted homeland. Ling's sculptures blend these emotions into small, tranquil scenes, capturing the delicate balance of living in limbo while maintaining hope. This theme of perseverance and resilience is central to her artistic practice.



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GABRIELA HANDAL
(MFA 2015)

Gabriela Handal was born and raised in the Republic of Panama where she earned her undergraduate degree at Ganexa University of Art. In 2013 she started to work toward her Master of Fine Arts degree at the New York Academy of Art, earning it in 2015. Since then she has gotten married, and is a full-time artist and housewife, and part-time podcast host of her show "A Conversation About Art". There are 116 episodes and counting. It can be found on YouTube. Her work is based on the study of the human body as Mother Nature intended it, not as we think it should work. She does so with graphite on paper, generally focusing on thoughtfully developed bust portraiture.



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AUSTIN HARRIS
(MFA 2020)

Austin Harris was born in Bellevue Washington, Sept 3rd 1995. Harris spent the early part of his life in Seattle, Washington. Moving frequently from school to school, one thing he held consistent, was his passion for drawing. At a young age He gained both technical skill and inspiration from his father. At age 11, Harris moved to Ellensburg, WA where his family ultimately chose to reside. Harris consistently found himself spending most of his time drawing and chasing his creative desires. With the influence of his high school art teacher, he decided to pursue a career in the arts. In 2018, as a first-generation college student, Harris Received his bachelor's in fine arts with a focus in painting at Central Washington University. Harris then moved to New York where he received an MFA in Painting at the New York Academy of Arts in 2020. Just weeks before graduating Harris was offered a Solo show in LA with Over the Influence and has since had an International solo show in London, Hong Kong, and Paris. Harris currently lives and works in Brooklyn New York.



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JACOB HAYES
(MFA 2014)

Jacob Hayes earned his BFA in painting from the University of Kansas and completed his MFA in 2014 at the New York Academy of Art where he studied oil painting. Hayes' paintings have been featured in both solo and group exhibitions including "Artists by Artists" at Forum Gallery, New York, "About Face" at the South Hampton Art Center, South Hampton NY, and "Summer Exhibition" at Flowers Gallery, NY. In 2016, his portrait Grady was accepted into the competitive and prestigious BP Portrait Award Exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery in London, which also traveled to the Usher Gallery in Lincoln and the Scottish National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh. Hayes received the Elizabeth Greenshields Grant in 2018, the Eric Fischl Artist in Residence at the West Nottingham Academy Maryland in 2017 and was a featured artist in the New American Paintings- West issue #156 in 2022. In 2019, he was a semifinalist in the Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition. Jacob currently lives and paints in Kansas.



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JACOB HICKS
(MFA 2012)

Jacob Hicks is an internationally exhibited Brooklyn-based oil painter and art educator with the Queens Museum. He received the W Paul Beckwith Emerging Artist Grant, the Eric Fischl '66 Artist-In-Residence Teaching Grant, and the Mary Vernon Painting Prize through the Meadows School of the Arts. He has participated in residencies with the Children's Museum of the Arts, the Saltonstall Foundation, the Spinnerei in Leipzig, Germany, and the Terra Foundation in Giverny, France. Recent notable exhibitions include *Cure/Rated* at HOFA Gallery in London, *Garden of Earthly Delights* and *Allegory of Vanity* at the Spring/Break Art Show with Kustera Projects in NYC, and *Smoke & Mirrors: Magical Thinking in Contemporary Art* at the Boca Raton Museum of Art.

Statement: In 2016, I began creating a series of female portraits as a form of resistance to misogyny and racism. To recalibrate the power structure of a religious and masculine hegemony's image history, I paint empowered and diverse women in a space previously occupied by male idealizations of female subservience. I am currently on *Woman 63*. The portraits are divided into four categories: art historical, cultural, personal, and artificial. The art historical portraits reference Primitive Flemish, Italian Renaissance, Spanish Baroque, Pre-Raphaelite, and 19th-century European Academic paintings. The cultural portraits depict influential figures like Toni Morrison who make irrefutable the genius of female visionaries. The personal portraits depict women in my immediate life who have helped shape my understanding of strength and heroism. The artificial portraits use AI image generation as an origin and framework from which to reclaim and subvert an algorithmic siphoning and amplification of female stereotypes and confront a future image of evolving objectification. I ornament each portrait in improvised imaginings, creating environments for some characters and color fields or flat patterning for others.



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EMILY HILDEBRAND
(MFA 2000)

Emily Hildebrand read in a newspaper article that every time a bomb is detonated it not only causes local destruction, but it also damages the Earth's ionosphere. This means that with every bomb explosion, our protective envelope of ionosphere is torn a little bit more. Like a favorite old t-shirt, it can only tolerate so many tears before the fabric is destroyed. Every action affects all of us, no matter how far away; we are all connected. Her Grandfather, an astrophysicist, taught her, that we and everything around us are accumulations of stardust coming in and out of being. Hildebrand finds inspiration and comfort in this eternal interconnection of mixing conglomerations of stardust.

As a child, Emily moved with her family from South-Side Chicago to the Colorado Mountains where she developed the deep love for nature that permeates her work. The wild beautiful mountains in the vastness of space, where I could watch the stars of the milky way overhead and come face to face with free, wild animals, rooted deep within me the feeling of being simultaneously removed from and connected to the world around her. She feels this distance and connection in her current life as an immigrant in Switzerland, raising her children, and making art, teaching. As Emily floats in this in-between space of belonging and being a foreigner, she thinks back to the lesson of existence as interconnected stardust from her grandfather and this allows her to belong to the city and the mountains, to America and to Switzerland, to art, science and nature, to her children and to herself. Hildebrand looks at the Hubble space telescope photos of nebulae birthing stars and she feel it viscerally. She is that star baby and that star mother and so her life's work is based on seeing and reframing our ideas about the other

and creating a sense of commonality amongst all of us. We are all Earth beings and we are all in this together.

Part of her work as a social justice minded artist is to see connections and similarities between Earth beings; Stability, comfort and safety, are things that we all need equally.

It is not at all sensational or thrilling, it is simple empathy for others. Emily Hildebrand is most interested in dropping the veil of assumption and working to project a world that we can all thrive in. What we can imagine, we can create. We are all made of star dust, We all have been born and we will all die, what we do in-between with this gift of existence is up to us. For her, it is discovery through art and connection with life through social justice.



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JACKSON HILL
(MFA 2023)

Jackson Hill (b. 1994, Newton, Massachusetts) received his BS in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Maryland and worked as a modeling and simulation analyst for the Navy just long enough to save up enough money to leave engineering and dedicate himself fully to his art practice. Hill is a figurative painter known for creating psychologically charged scenes that explore the chaos, alienation, and uncertainty of modern life. His work is grounded in memory, often blending elements from his rural upbringing in Indiana and Maryland with abstracted mental spaces and motifs drawn from the natural sciences. Although Hill primarily works in oils, he has recently begun exploring the interplay between site-specific found materials such as litter or animal bones, and more traditional media such as oils. Jackson Hill received his MFA from the New York Academy of Art, where he was awarded the Kaws and David Schafer Artists of Excellence scholarships. He currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.



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GEORGIA HINARIS
(MFA 2019)

Georgia Hinaris (b. 1993) is a dynamic force in the Chicago art scene, leveraging her academic journey with a BFA from Pratt Institute in 2015 and an MFA from The New York Academy of Art in 2019. Recognized for her talent and dedication, she emerged as a finalist for the prestigious AXA Student Prize in 2019. Notably, Hinaris has been honored twice as a recipient of the esteemed Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation grant in both 2020 and 2023. Since 2020, she has been proudly represented by Gallery Victor in Chicago. Her artistic journey has seen her works displayed in prominent galleries across diverse locales, including Chicago, New York City, San Francisco, Queretaro, and Oslo. Outside of her artistic pursuits, Hinaris finds inspiration in her travels, having explored over 20 countries in the past two years. This passion for discovery fuels her creative spirit, infusing her work with a rich tapestry of cultural influences and personal experiences.



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KERRIE KING
(CFA 2018)

Born and raised in New York City, King lives and works in New York and Washinton, CT. She loves to paint. She loves to draw. She loves to experiment with different mediums be it charcoal, plaster, wire, cardboard boxes, white paper, oil, house paint, watercolor. King is constantly exploring new ways to express herself. However, in the end she finds the most important of all is line and the human body. No matter what medium she is using, she finds that she has to let herself go and try to capture the emotion of the model be it with one line or many. Kerrie King received her CFA from the New York Academy of Art in 2018.



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WILL KURTZ
(MFA 2009, Fellow 2010)

Will Kurtz was born in Flint, Michigan and received his Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from Michigan State University in 1981. He practiced as a landscape architect for 25 years, throughout the United States and Canada. It wasn't until he was in his mid-thirties that he began creating art as a self-taught artist. Eventually his passion for art superseded landscape architecture and he moved to New York at the age of 50 to attend graduate school at the New York Academy of Art. After graduation with an MFA, he was selected to remain and do a one-year fellowship. He has since had several solo and group shows is currently represented by Kim Foster Gallery, New York, Avant Gallery, Miami, Galerie Sebastien Adrien in Paris, and Galerie Van Campen & Rochus, Antwerp, Belgium. His work is in many prominent collections around the world. He works in Queens, and lives in New York.



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IRINA LAKSHIN
(MFA 2021)

Irina Lakshin (Deshchenko) was born and raised in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, the capital of Kamchatka Peninsula, USSR. She received her master's degree in economics from the Academy of Foreign Trade and started her career in the banking sector before moving to the United States.

Upon settling in the U.S. in 2009, Irina began taking pottery classes and fell in love with clay. For several years, she studied with different ceramic masters, learning different techniques and perfecting her skills in both hand building and wheel-throwing.

For the first 2-3 years evening pottery classes were just a hobby, but in 2012 Irina decided that she wants to be a professional artist. And since 2013, Irina started to exhibit her art in various galleries, and today, many of her pieces are in private collections.

In 2018 she got a Certificate of Fine art from New York Academy of Art and MFA in 2021.

Irina works with different types of clay, such as stoneware, porcelain, and terracotta. She also uses different types of glazes and firing. The style of Irina's works can be defined as contemporary, but with reference to the classics, which manifests itself in the form of vessels and figurative sculptures.

The latest project which she created in 2020, during lock-down is series of sculptures "Mishka". Mishka bear is an Avatar to depict us - people, to show different life situations, to pass certain emotions, to create narrative.



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LISA LEBOSKY
(MFA 2006)

Lisa Lebofsky is a nomadic plein air painter, collaborating with nature and people. She paints the susceptibility of nature, correlating its restlessness with our own human vulnerabilities. Her direct participation with the landscape is vital to imbue a painting with the energy of a specific place, so that viewers can connect viscerally: to move, excite and engage them. The paintings are on surfaces that remain visible through various layers of paint, permeating the entire image. The push and pull of lights and darks, opacity and transparency, abstract and real, enhances the variability of these transient scenes. By painting in this dichotomous manner, nature becomes a metaphor for our emotional struggles and encounters.

Lebofsky finds inspiration by traveling extensively, often to remote parts of the world, in order to immerse herself in different environments and cultures. She seeks out areas around the globe that are particularly susceptible to the impacts of climate change and meets with local residents to discuss how their community is impacted. To a great extent, these personal interactions inform what areas and what subject matter is ultimately painted. Regions visited include Antarctica, Newfoundland and Labrador, Greenland, and The Maldives.

In addition to solo and group exhibitions nationally and internationally, Lebofsky is the recipient of several awards and residencies including: Shenandoah National Park, VA, Terra Nova National Park, Newfoundland, New Bedford Whaling Museum, MA, Saltonstall, NY, Tilting AIR, Fogo Island, Newfoundland, Jentel, WY. . In 2023, Lisa was in Tribeca Festival Artist Awards Program. Lisa is back in New York City after wrapping up a 3 year mission painting across North America to better know the changes happening in our environment and the people it is affecting.

Education: 2000 BFA Metals, State University of New York (SUNY) New Paltz, NY
2006 MFA Painting, New York Academy of Art, New York, NY



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Robert Fishko, *Director*

AMBER LIA-KLOPPEL
(MFA 2007)

Amber Lia-Kloppel was born in Ithaca, New York and she studied art as a young adult at the Community School of Music and Arts. She did her undergraduate study in Philadelphia at Moore College of Art and Design, receiving a BFA, and subsequently moved to New York City where she received an MFA from the New York Academy of Art. Amber has been awarded the Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Grant, the Constance Saltonstall Foundation Grant, and the Stobart Foundation Grant for her work. During graduate school she was awarded a Prince of Wales/Forbes Foundation Travel Grant and Residency, and during undergraduate school she received the Emily Sartain Fellowship for European Travel. She paints mostly figurative compositions and portraits, and her work is grounded in American and Dutch traditions of genre painting. Her major influences range from Johannes Vermeer to Edward Hopper to Alice Neel, and while there is a tendency towards voyeurism in her work, it is countered by an element of confrontation. Amber's work has been shown primarily in New York, Philadelphia, and San Juan, Puerto Rico, and it is part of numerous private collections including those of King Charles III, and the Emmy Award winning actor Martin Short. Her work has most recently been included in the Arnot Museum's 77th Regional Exhibition and is in the permanent collections of the Palmer Museum of Art, and in the CIGNA Museum. Amber lives in Ithaca, NY and teaches painting and drawing at Ithaca College.



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ANASTASIA LOPOUKHINE
(MFA 2021)

Anastasia Lopoukhine is inspired by personal experiences and historical events. Often drawing from memory, her works depict characters from her childhood, which function as prompts to help her recall the funny, grotesque, and strange nature of everyday encounters. With a background in etching, she is trained to commit to every line she draws, allowing mistakes to guide her. Her philosophy is, as in life, that one can never go back and rub things out. Her nomadic childhood, living between Russia and France whilst educated in England by necessity made her choose drawing as her practice. Today, Anastasia Lopoukhine's chosen tools are pen and ink, charcoal, and collage. The very nature of her process results in an intensity of detailed expression, often lifted with a hint of wry humor. Lopoukhine graduated from The New York Academy of Art in 2021. She has had solo shows in Paris, New York, Venice, and London. Her work is held in many private collections in the USA, UK, and Europe.



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JONTHAN MACGREGOR
(MFA 2024)

Jonathan MacGregor (b. 1998, Georgia) is a New York City based artist who was born and raised in the vibrant landscapes of the American South. Through figurative oil painting, he emerges into the contemporary art world through personal parables, portraits, and the patterns of life. He received his Masters of Fine Arts from the New York Academy of Art where he was awarded the Robert and Suzanne Cochran Scholarship for his efforts. Along with several academic accolades and grants, MacGregor has exhibited his paintings in multiple national, international, and digital galleries. He has been featured in the New York Times, the Guardian, and among other publications.



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J. ADAM MCGALLIARD
(MFA 2003)

J. Adam McGalliard is a contemporary realist artist who masterfully blends traditional oil painting with modern technology to explore identity, myths, and the divides shaping today's society. His artwork is rich in layers, weaving personal stories with archetypes and the intricate dynamics between humanity and nature. His latest series, "Erewhon," captures unreal figures in surreal settings, envisioning potential futures amid societal polarization and climatic upheaval. Previous collections, like "Projections" and "Personas," investigate the complex expressions and roles people adopt within our changing world. Trained by notable artists Vincent Desiderio and Steven Assael at the New York Academy of Art, McGalliard honed his unique style and perspective during his MFA in Painting. He also spent nearly four years enhancing his skills behind the scenes as an artist assistant for the globally acclaimed Jeff Koons. His artworks have graced prestigious stages worldwide, including Context Art Miami, Sotheby's, and Museo de la Ciudad de México. Currently, he is an Assistant Professor of Painting and Drawing at the University of North Florida and continues to push the boundaries of his craft in his Jacksonville studio.

Harbinger Painting Description "In 'Harbinger,' from J. Adam McGalliard's latest series 'Erewhon', a nonbinary figure dressed in a white robe commands attention, holding a glass globe—a symbol of protection in a post-apocalyptic setting. This painting draws on the religious motifs reminiscent of masters like Jan van Eyck and Bronzino, blending them with contemporary themes of identity and endurance. Rich with Renaissance-inspired floral details that decorate both the figure and the surroundings, the artwork invites viewers to uncover its layered meanings. Interestingly, the globe, while not originally intended to mimic a halo, has sparked discussions about divinity in turmoil, showing how online interpretations can deepen and diversify the viewer's experience."



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TINA DION MEHRPOUY
(MFA 2025)

Tina Dion Mehrpouy is a figurative painter specializing in portraiture. Born in Tehran, Iran, she moved to Los Angeles at the age of seven. Her work reflects the duality of her Iranian and American identity, using art to comment on the complexities and societal expectations surrounding her experiences. Her oil paintings weave narratives that transcend borders, inviting viewers to explore the intersection of her cultural roots and contemporary life. With a vibrant color palette and meticulous attention to detail, her recent works examine traditional Western gender roles, encouraging viewers to reflect on the fusion of her heritage with modern experiences. She is currently completing her MFA in painting at the New York Academy of Art.



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MUSTAFA MOHSIN
(MFA 2024)

Mustafa Mohsin (b. 1994) is a contemporary artist based in Brooklyn, whose self-portraiture explores the intersection of cultural identities. Raised in Lahore, Pakistan, Mustafa's early career spanned roles as a cake artist, restaurateur, and marketer before fully dedicating himself to painting. A recent MFA graduate from the New York Academy of Art, Mohsin's current body of work—created primarily from memory and imagination—examines the dichotomies of existence and moments of contemporary life and culture, often using humor to address serious topics.

With a strong foundation in perceptual painting and a deep appreciation for light, color, and playful mark-making, Mustafa's recent work marks a departure from his past focus on observed reality and direct references. Instead, he now emphasizes what is seen and remembered, capturing the essence of his experiences and reflections.



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ALYSSA MONKS

(b. 1977)
American

Alyssa Monks earned her B.A. from Boston College and studied painting at Lorenzo de' Medici in Florence. She went on to complete her M.F.A at the New York Academy of Art, Graduate School of Figurative Art where she is now a trustee and instructor. She teaches and lectures at universities and institutions nationwide.

“My intention is to transfer the intimacy and vulnerability of my human experience into a painted surface. I like mine to be as intimate as possible, each brush stroke like a fossil, recording every gesture and decision.”

In the years since her first New York solo exhibition in 2006, Alyssa Monks has demonstrated the unique ability to blend figures seamlessly with their environment in a natural and sensuous continuum. Monks first used the properties of water, steam and glass to submerge and enshroud the individuals in her paintings. Currently, her characters appear as essential elements of the natural world. Monks' psychologically-charged, figurative subjects shift between the intimacy of the interior to the bold, open wilderness as she continues to incorporate the physical properties of nature into her models. Neither portraits nor narratives, Monks' expressionistic paintings combine elements of portraiture and landscape into single-figure examinations of loss, love, desire and hope as they engage the viewer with lush, painterly surfaces, colors and brushstrokes.

Monks's paintings have been the subject of numerous solo and group exhibitions including "Intimacy" at the Kunst Museum in Ahlen, Germany, "Peers & Influences," at the The Bo Bartlett Center in Columbus, GA, and "Reconfiguring the Body in American Art, 1820-2009" at the National Academy Museum of Fine Arts, New York. Her work is represented in public and private collections, including the Savannah College of Art and Design Museum of Art, The Center for Contemporary Art, and the collections of Howard Tullman, Danielle Steele and Eric Fischl.

Monks has been awarded the Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Grant for Painting three times and was invited to give a TED talk at Indiana University in November, 2015, which has now been watched more than one million times. The artist's paintings and drawings were an integral part of the set of the FX series *The Americans* throughout the sixth and final season in 2018. In August 2020, a solo exhibition for Alyssa Monks was presented at The Bo Bartlett Center in Columbus, Georgia, and Forum Gallery opened the Artist's most recent solo exhibition, *It's All Under Control*, in November 2021. Most recently, the San Luis Obispo Museum of Art presented *Alyssa Monks: Be Perfectly Still, A Retrospective* from August 27 through November 13, 2022.

Alyssa Monks is represented by Forum Gallery.



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URSULA MUR
(CFA 2024)

Ursula Mur is a Peruvian artist whose work spans various disciplines, from painting to ceramics and printmaking. As an artist, her work focuses on the social, racial, and political issues of Latin America, with an emphasis on the importance of giving voice to forgotten communities and humanizing what the system has overlooked. Mur emphasizes the importance of art in educating and uniting the masses, and advocates for a more empathetic approach in her artistic practice. She considers it essential not to lose sight of what makes Latin American culture great and values the opportunity to celebrate its beauty and diversity through her work. Mur seeks to connect Latin America with the world and raise awareness about the injustices and challenges facing the region. She began her art education at the contemporary art school Corriente Alterna (Lima, Peru), where she acquired the foundations of her artistic practice between 2008 and 2010. Later, in 2010, she emigrated to New York, where she expanded her knowledge in abstract painting and printmaking at The Art Students League of New York. During her time in New York, she also had the opportunity to work alongside renowned artists such as Pema Rinzin and Charles Hinman. In 2016, Mur returned to Lima and founded Espacio 22, a gallery dedicated to promoting the work of emerging artists, which became an important meeting point for the Lima artistic community until its closure in 2020. Passionate about exploring new techniques and media, during this time she also ventured into the world of ceramics at Taller Dos Ríos. Her constant quest for growth led her to participate in various artist residencies in places like AGALAB in Amsterdam, Netherlands, and Ceramic Kingdom in Berlin, Germany, during the years 2021 and 2022 respectively. Currently, Ursula Mur is finishing the Certificate program at New York Academy of Art.



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ANDREA OLIVIA
(MFA 2025)

Based in Los Angeles, Andrea Olivia is a contemporary oil painter who explores the phenomenology of waiting. Olivia developed a profound interest in the passage of time and the emotional landscapes that accompany moments of anticipation. Her work delves into the liminal moments between anticipation and arrival, expectation and fulfillment. The slow-drying nature of oil paint allows Olivia to reflect the gradual passage of time, building layers that echo the complex emotions of waiting—inviting viewers to find meaning in the subtle, often overlooked moments of life.



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ONESLUTRIOT
(MFA 2025)

Oneslutriot is a queer painter and drafts person raised between Lithuania and the UK, currently living in New York City. Her work has been extensively exhibited across Europe, including showcases in the UK, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, and most recently in New York. Rooted in the Feminist Punk/DIY/Underground scenes, she actively participates in artistic collectives in Europe and the UK, advocating for social change. Currently pursuing an MFA at the New York Academy of Arts, Oneslutriot's art explores societal issues such as body image, body politics, repression, and LGBTQ+ rights, drawn from her own experiences of suffering. Throughout her career, she has organized and curated international arts festivals and events to shed light on injustices, advocate for change, and spark meaningful conversations. Her artistic journey is driven by a desire to challenge norms, provoke thought, and inspire action through creative expression, with an aim of dismantling societal self-doubt.

Oneslutriot uses art as a tool for positive transformation, aiming to empower the marginalized voices in society.



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LAURA PETURSON
(MFA 2005)

Laura Peturson holds a BFA from York University and an MFA from the New York Academy of Art. Her work uses narrative to explore themes of childhood, gender, and place. She is interested in the ways the domestic spaces we inhabit as children form our identity and a conception of our place in relation to family, geography, and nature. Laura's influences include Japanese ukiyo-e woodblock prints, and the work of 19th century artists such as Mary Cassatt, James Abbott McNeill Whistler, and William Merritt Chase. She lives in the small, Northern Ontario town of Callander, and is an Associate Professor at Nipissing University in North Bay. Laura exhibits widely in Canada and internationally. Recent solo exhibitions include *Wasteland/Wanderland* at Station Gallery (Whitby), *Terre égarée* at Atelier Circulaire (Montréal), and *Keeping Time* at Martha Street Studio Gallery (Winnipeg). She is currently preparing for exhibitions at AM Zehnder Gallery (Welfleet, MA) and the Cambridge Art Galleries at Idea Exchange (Cambridge, ON). In addition to exhibiting her traditional and installation-based printmaking, Laura has an active public art practice with large-scale murals in Sudbury, ON, North Bay, ON, and Port Burwell, ON.



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PG PICASSO
(MFA 2024)

Nomadic since birth, PG Picasso (Ato-Obong Ini-Abasi Akpama) is an interdisciplinary visual artist residing in New York. Their work is inspired by their admiration for human culture. Often using bright, bold colors, and deep black strokes to convey thoughts and emotion. Their work ranges from fictional caricatures to realistic oil paintings. The world in which they reside offers an endless supply of inspiration and direction.



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BO PRATHER
(MFA 2023)

In May of 1997 in New Haven, Connecticut, Bo Prather was born. Bo's family moved to Amherst, Massachusetts at the age of two, and it was there in Western Massachusetts that he spent his childhood. Always drawn to the arts, Bo knew he wanted to be an artist at a young age. As he got older, he became interested in many subjects, all of which were in some way or another, related to his art. After attending a performing arts high school, Bo graduated and began film school at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York. While at Pratt, Bo spent much more time making music and making paintings than making films. He decided to put film on hold for the time being and leave the school to pursue his other more immediate passions. After spending some time living and working between New York and Massachusetts, Bo found the New York Academy of Art in Tribeca New York. He attended and completed both the CFA and the MFA program through the Academy. Being in New York and around so many artists has led Bo to some great opportunities to show his work to the public. Since his MFA graduation in 2023, Bo has been back in his hometown of Amherst, painting each and every day while the birds and the chipmunks and the flowers surround him like water.



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LAURA ROMAINE

[MFA 2022, Chubb Fellow 2024]

Laura Romaine is a painter who builds realms of artifice and exaggeration. Whether animal, human, or some fusion of the two, her inimitable figures offer a feeling of playfulness and carnality. Her oil and acrylic paintings reconfigure the indignities of late-stage capitalism into absurdist scenes which delight in the tactile splendor of painting. Romaine grew up in Central Florida and received a BFA from Ringling School of Art and Design. She received an MFA from New York Academy of Art, which in 2023 awarded her with the prestigious annual Chubb Fellowship.



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NICOLA RUSSELL
(MFA 2024)

Nicola Russell is an American/Canadian artist based in New York City. She studied studio art and philosophy through undergrad and recently obtained her MFA from the New York Academy of Art. Her primary medium is oil on panel, with a heavy use of terpenoid to make the paint thin, dry, and dull in appearance. "Keep To The Right" is the second painting in her current body of work "Subway Series." The work arises from a combined interest in the mundane, life in the city, the absurdity of existence, and the condition of being a woman.



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BAHAR SABZEVARI
(MFA 2018)

Bahar Sabzevari is a visual artist born in Iran and based in Brooklyn, NY, who works internationally. She has a painting practice and creates self-portraits, figurative and narrative paintings. She has worked and studied in Iran, Europe and the US. Sabzevari's work delves into the complexities of human identity, exploring themes of self-identity, freedom, restriction, and the sense of place and belonging. Her art deeply explores transient and hidden forms of identity, capturing imagination, hopes, fears, dreams, histories, and evolution. Her research and studio-based process brings together complex imagery, symbols, and narratives, often drawing from mythology, science, religion, and art history. Sabzevari's commitment extends to addressing social and environmental injustices, with her latest paintings incorporating symbols of unity and commentary on these issues.



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GUILLERMO SERRANO AMAT
(MFA 2024)

Guillermo Serrano Amat (b. 1993, Spain) is a painter based in New York City. After graduating in Intellectual property law in 2017, he trained at the Atelier Artium Peña (Madrid) and graduated with an MFA in Painting at the New York Academy of Art in 2024, where he was awarded the President's Scholar Award and the David Schafer Artists of Excellence Scholarship. He has exhibited in solo and group shows in Madrid, Paris, and New York, and his work has been shown twice at ARCO Madrid and at Spring/Break art fair in New York.



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CHIE SHIMIZU
(MFA 2001)

Chie Shimizu was born in Japan. She works predominantly in the medium of sculpture with Japanese-style painting but includes metal crafts and oil paintings among her earlier works. Shimizu earned her BFA from Tokyo University of the Arts in 1993 with a major in metal crafts, and received a prestigious Salon De Printemps Prize at graduation. She had several shows of both metalworks and oil paintings in Tokyo and Kanagawa, Japan, before moving to New York in 1996. She earned her MFA in sculpture from the New York Academy of Art in 2001 and received a residency grant from the HRH Prince of Wales and Forbes Foundation at the Chateau de Balleroy, Normandy, France. Her work has been exhibited in numerous venues throughout the United States, including the Island Weiss Gallery, Mark Miller Gallery, Dillon Gallery, Booth Gallery, WhiteBox Harlem, and she held a first solo show in the United States at NowHere gallery in New York, April 2022. Her works were exhibited in the group show at Lurf museum in Tokyo, Japan in May 2023 for the first time in 27 years. Shimizu's work has also been included in private collections worldwide, from the United States to Germany, Turkey, Israel, Peru, and Japan. She currently lives and works in Queens, New York.



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KATHY STECKO
(MFA 2000)

Kathy Stecko is a ceramic sculptor – her current body of work is a series of porcelain figures with removable masks. Using a combination of glazes, paints and found or fabricated objects; each figure creates a personal narrative. Stecko is the recipient of the Avery Hopwood Award, Traub Grant and a 2-month artist residency at Sculpture Space. Most recently her work has been exhibited at PAN Amsterdam, MANA Contemporary, IBIS Gallery, and The Grand Rapids Art Museum. Stecko earned her B.F.A from The University of Michigan and an M.F.A from The New York Academy of Art. She lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.



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VITHYA TRUONG
(MFA 2007)

Vithya Truong was born in Bangkok, Thailand, to Vietnamese parents. At age 12, they migrated to the United States (a Chicago suburb). After finishing high school, Truong attended Northern Illinois University to study accounting. In 1996, he graduated, moved to Chicago, and worked for a few years in accounting but he wasn't very happy with the work itself. Playing in rock/punk bands and painting were really what kept Truong fulfilled during those years. In 2003, he made a big break and moved to New York City with his fiancé and enrolled in art school. In 2007, Truong finished his MFA (in painting) and their first daughter was also born. Since then, he has been a stay-at-home dad for both of their daughters while maintaining a steady studio practice.

After graduate school, Vithya Truong had a few opportunities to show but he has always felt that he needed more time to work in private and without distractions. Over the past 16 years, he has been painting in his peaceful studio, and recently discovered something truly exciting.

His tools and supplies are simple: oil paint on canvases that he stretches himself. Ideas for recent paintings generally come from anything he sees that spark his interest—an odd color green barn door, patches of snow on trees, strange lines made by cross country skis on a snow-covered lake, a neighbor's window, or cracks on cement wall. Truong tries to retain that image in his memory and recreate it in his studio. Much freedom is taken in the painting process, and the end result is often a far departure from the actual image.

Throughout different periods of his career, Vithya Truong asked himself why his paintings turn out the way they do. In his recent body of work, he discovered that two extremes, perhaps simplicity and complexity, can exist within a painting.



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JOHN VOLK
(MFA 1998)

John Volk grew up riding horses, camping, and fishing with his grandfather in the Badlands of Western North Dakota, an isolated landscape, sparsely populated with people. Although Volk came to art by chance and later in life, the isolation that he felt during those formative years laid the groundwork for the artist he is.



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KALEY WEIL
(MFA 2024)

Kaley Weil is an interdisciplinary artist born in Los Angeles and based in New York City. She earned her BFA from Northwestern University with a double major in Art and Psychology and received her MFA in Fine Arts with a concentration in sculpture from The New York Academy of Art. Employing a range of materials, including paint, ceramic, stone, and glass, her work explores intimacy, identity, and connection in the digital age, investigating the nuances and complexities of smart phones, social media, modern relationships and communication through a contemporary feminine lens. Kaley's first solo exhibition was a sell-out show titled Women™ in Los Angeles in 2021. Since then, she has participated in a variety of group exhibitions in both Los Angeles and New York, including the Eye to Eye exhibition where her work was featured along side renowned artists like Tracey Emin. In the June 2024, Kaley will participate in the ABC Stone Carrara Residency in Carrara, Italy. She also has been the recipient of awards that include the Tracey Emin Scholar Award, the Price of Wales Scholarship, the MFA Academy Scholar Award and the ABC Stone Carrara Residency Merit Award. In addition to her Fine Art practice, Kaley's work has been featured in multiple short films, music videos, and fashion partnerships. Since 2020, she has established her own brand called K.E.W designs, worked as an NFT creator, and amassed an online community of almost 7,000 individuals.



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SOPHIA WEISENSEL
(MFA 2021)

Sophia Weisensel was born and raised in rural Minnesota. She received her BFA in Studio Art in 2019 from Bethany Lutheran College. She moved to New York and pursued an MFA at the New York Academy of Art, graduating in 2021. Weisensel's oil paintings have been exhibited throughout the US and in Europe. She was the recipient of the 2022 Kylemore Abbey Art Residency in Connemara, Ireland and the 2023 Hale MFA Art residency in Nantucket, MA. Weisensel now lives and paints in Minneapolis, MN.



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JULIANNA WELLS
(MFA 2019)

Julianna Wells (b. 1994 in Columbus, GA) received a BFA from Columbus State University (2017) and an MFA from the New York Academy of Art (2019). While at Columbus State University she studied privately with Bo Bartlett. Currently, she is part time faculty at Columbus State University and resides in Georgia. Her work has been shown in numerous group exhibitions, including Artfields in Lake City, SC, Sugarlift Gallery, NY, The Salmagundi Club, NY and in Leipzig, Germany where she received a residency through the New York Academy with LIA at the Spinnerei. Her paintings and drawings depict the landscape of Southeastern America, and the narratives of the people and animals which inhabit the region. Often exploring quiet moments of introspection in her work, Wells captures the delicate interaction of our environments and inner psychological states.



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MONICA WHALLEY
(MFA 2003)

Monica Whalley received her M.F.A. from the New York Academy of Art and was awarded the Prince of Wales Scholarship to Normandy, France.

Over the years she has participated in various group shows, most notably the BP Portrait Award at National Portrait Gallery, London, UK, and the 2021 London Art Biennale.

She is the grateful recipient of the Toronto Arts Council Visual Artist grant for 2023-2024.

She was born in the USA, and lives with her family in Toronto, Canada.



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STEPHEN WINIECKI
(MFA 2007)

Stephen Winiecki lives and works in the Bronx, NY as a printmaker. He works primarily in mokuhanga, reductive woodcut, and reductive linocut printmaking techniques. His experience as a printmaker has allowed him to collaborate with other woodblock artists and designers including Paul Binnie, Jed Henry, David Bull (Mokuhankan), and Studio MDHR. His passion for rock climbing, cycling, and nature influence his work and inform his creative process.



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JIANNAN WU
(MFA 2016, Faculty)

Jiannan Wu (b.1990) is a China-born, New York based artist specializing in sculpture. He received his BFA Degree in Sculpture from China Academy of Art and his MFA Degree in Sculpture from New York Academy of Art. He is an adjunct faculty of New York Academy of Art, an Elected Member of American National Sculpture Society, American Medallion Sculpture Association and founder of Art America China Project. Through formats of sculpture and wall-mounted relief, He presents the theme of contemporary urban life and social events such as politics and sports with a focus on realism and a playful, satirical and multifaceted narrative, that can make us realize the often absurd nature of the environment we're currently living in.

Jiannan Wu is the recipient of the Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation grant, winner of 2017 & 2022 Dexter Jones Award presented by American National Sculpture Society, winner of Compleat Sculptor Award, and other awards. He was selected as "2022 Top 10 Outstanding Chinese American Youth" & "2020 AACYP Top 30 Under 30" presented by All America Chinese Youth Federation. His work is recognized as The Best Original Sculpture in 2019 by Sculpture Magazine of China. In addition, he was selected for Terra Foundation Residency in Giverny France 2015, ABC Stone Carrara Merit Award Residency in Italy 2016, West Nottingham Academy Eric Fischl Artist-in-Residence 2019, The Swatch Art Peace Hotel artist residency in Shanghai 2023 and Tombolo Artist Residency in NYC 2023. His works have also been displayed on numerous exhibitions at renowned venues such as Accesso Gallery in Italy, Gallery Poulsen and Art Herning in Denmark, the Sotheby's, Art Miami, and Southampton Arts Center in the United States, Bonner Kunstverein in Germany, Chongqing Contemporary Art Museum and Leo Gallery in China, etc. His works and art achievements have been published in The New York Times, The China Press, Metal Magazine, Beautiful Bizarre Magazine, Hi-Fructose Magazine, Collections Magazine, T(her) Magazine, etc. His works have been collected by numerous institutions and individuals.



475 Park Avenue at 57th Street, New York, New York 10022
Tel: (212) 355-4545 Fax: (212) 355-4547 www.forumgallery.com

Robert Fishko, *Director*

NAN XU
(MFA 2017)

Nan Xu is a New York based visual artist. She was born in Inner Mongolia, China, in 1991. During the year 2013-2015, she studied at New York University and the New School. In 2017, she received an MFA in the New York Academy of Art. She is an elected artist member of the American Artists Professional League. Her works showed in many famous art galleries in New York, including Mc gallery, China Gansu Baiyin Museum, Beijing Chengxi Contemporary Art Center, Dacia gallery etc. She won the Outstanding Artist Achievement Award in Time for Chinese Outstanding People Award 2023. Her drawings were sold in New York Sotheby's Auction every year from 2017 to 2023. Her work was included in the show "Realism on the Hudson" by The American Artists Professional League in 2023. Her work was chosen to be in the final list of MC gallery "Transformation" Art Competition. Her art also showed in the 88th Annual Juried Open Exhibition in National Art League and The American Artists Professional League 86th Grand National exhibition. Her artworks received acclaimed reviews by several major media, including Sing Tao Daily, spotlight magazine, Circle foundation artist review, Average art magazine, Artist Portfolio Magazine, Santa Clara Review, Edge of Faith magazine, Temenos Journal, etc. Her works are also collected by several organizations and private collectors.



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Robert Fishko, *Director*

ZANE YORK
(MFA 2003, Faculty)

Zane York (b. 1978) deftly walks the line between playfulness and profundity. His paintings imbue seemingly quotidian scenes with elements of the fantastical and unreal, calling into question the distinction between the grotesque and beautiful, the real and artificial, and death and life. It is in the tenuous state of existence that Zane sees vitality; in the absurd proposal of being, there is always beauty to found.

In his paintings, focus falls mostly to oddities, animals, and entomology. They are not necessarily pretty things, not necessarily ugly things, but intensely visual things. Themes of mortality, anthropomorphism, perceived beauty, and transience always seem to be exercised. The complex and conflicting state of these subjects provide his motivation; a bird's skull, all at once, is evidence of grand design, profane existence, and memento mori. Zane Received his B.F.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and his M.F.A. from the New York Academy of Art. He is represented by Franklin Bowles Gallery in New York, Gallery Fledermaus in Chicago, an BeinArt Gallery in Melbourne. He has had numerous solo exhibitions with his galleries as well as at the Dubuque Museum of Art, and the Arsenal Gallery in Central Park. His works have been exhibited in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Denver, Melbourne, St. Barthelemy, Florida, and France. Zane maintains his studio in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. He is on the faculty at the New York Academy of Art and Rhode Island School of Design.

For better or worse, Zane York grew up in a comic book culture. With two older brothers telling him to keep his hands off their comics (or at least to be careful (Okay, who are we kidding? Don't touch them at all.)), it was inevitable that he would find them enticing. So when he began getting interested in art, it was no surprise that comic books were the medium he first imagined for himself.

He was in elementary school when his parents gave him his first drawing table. Soon afterward, he began taking commissions from family members to draw pictures of

superheroes. In junior high and high school, he became more involved in comic art, building a portfolio that he carried with him to comic conventions for the professionals to evaluate.

What became clear, though, as he began taking art more seriously was that the kind of work he liked to do was unsuited for any kind of conventional comic book format. Comic books thrive on caricature and abstraction - signification through simplification. Zane's work, if anything, celebrates the opposite of the comic book aesthetic; it celebrates the mundane in all of its startling intricacy and beauty.