

:: For Immediate Release::

Art Museum Presents 'Carrying the Thick Present: Intimacy,' MFA Thesis Exhibition



left: Greg Mizak, *After A Brother's Song*, 2021; right: Katie Virag, *Desaturated (Living Room)*, 2021

Syracuse, NY-- The Syracuse University Art Museum is pleased to announce *Carrying the Thick Present: Intimacy* featuring the work of Studio Arts, Transmedia, and Design Master of Fine Arts thesis candidates enrolled in the College of Visual and Performing Arts. Twelve contemporary artists, Aanchal Raisahib, Allison DeBritz, Brett Morgan, Britt Thorp, Gregory Mizak, Jiayu Kang, Katie Virag, Kristina Starowitz, Laura Lineback, Linda Moses, Matthew Apol, and Peiyuan Xi, engage with intimacy to *Carrying the Thick Present*. They depict intimate moments of companionship, affect and love; and examine the notion of domesticity and home. Curated by Manuela Hansen, Fulbright Fellow and Master of Arts candidate in the Modern and Contemporary Art: Critical and Curatorial Studies program at Columbia University, this exhibition features a diverse array of paintings, ceramics, textile art, video, and site-specific installations.

Carrying the Thick Present is a part of a multi-venue exhibition divided among three Syracuse University exhibition spaces and features twenty-four artists. The participating Coalition of Museum and Art Centers partnering venues include the Syracuse University Art Museum, Point of Contact Gallery, and the Community Folk Art Center.

The museum's presentation of the exhibition will be open to the campus community (current SU and SUNY-ESF staff, faculty, and students) Thursday, April 8 through Sunday, May 23, 2021 in the Shaffer Art Building. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., and Saturdays by appointment. Closed university holidays, Sundays, and Mondays

Exhibition Overview

Over a year of life with the pandemic has passed. During the last year, the participating artists in this exhibition were either deprived of the opportunity to make art in their studios or abandoned their studios after returning home from abroad. Just like the rest of us, they have experienced lockdown, isolation, loss, and grief. These works emerged out of such precarious-thick conditions.

At Syracuse University Art Museum, twelve artists engage with intimacy as a way to *Carrying the Thick Present*. They depict intimate moments of companionship, affect and love; and examine the notion of domesticity and home. Some evoke a sense of boredom, pause, and suspension of time; others contest the boundaries of the intimate space. These works remember. Working through intimacy as a way to bearing the ongoing life under social and physical distance, these works prompt introspective reflection and affect, re-orienting our sense of time and being with others. Art, and all the artists in this exhibition, hold the capacity to collect ongoing pasts, stay with thick presents, and reimagine still possible futures.

About the Artists

Matthew Apol lives and works in New York. Matthew is a visual artist whose work considers labor, class, capital, and alternative modes of communication within networked life.

Allison DeBritz is a photographer and mixed media artist examining themes of family and generational trauma through a feminist lens. She questions the depiction of women and mothers in mainstream American media—specifically the roles they are expected to fulfill in domestic spaces and relationships. DeBritz graduated from SUNY New Paltz in 2015 with a BFA in Photography and has exhibited her work nationally and internationally.

Jiayu Kang is an interdisciplinary designer from China who focuses on how XR and other technologies affect people's perception of presence, engagement, interactivity, and immersion in remote communication. His work explores self-disclosure and care in intimate relationships in the online environment.

Laura Lineback uses humor in imagery and an unlimited range of materials, to call into question cultural beliefs of what we inherently regard as truth. Conceptually, her work is based in projects and has developed to include subjects such as feminism, death, the body, instinct, and an overall criticism of social mores.

Gregory Mizak received a dual BFA in Applied Media Arts from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania in 2017 where he studied Publication Design, Photography, and Art History. His exhibited work gives intimate attention to camaraderie, male companionship, longing and belonging.

Brett Morgan is an interdisciplinary artist from Pennsylvania who works primarily with ceramics and fibers. Brett's work is informed by the feminist and queer histories and traditions of craft, his upbringing in rural Northern Appalachia, popular culture, and the secondhand objects he rescues from the thrift store.

Linda Moses is an artist from Williamsburg, VA, where she received her BA in Art History from William & Mary in 2016. Her images exist at the intersection of moments that are performed and spontaneous, taking the form of colorful tableaux, image and text arrangements, and short films. She is particularly interested in using the camera as a tool for portraying processes of sustained looking and communicating care in everyday life.

Aanchal Raisahib was born and raised in Chandigarh, India. Her work explores the ambiguity that arises from the displacement of cultural context. She creates narratives that talk about her experiences of acclimating to a new cultural milieu, using material that is inherently 'Indian.'

Kristina Starowitz's work explores the fracture and reconstruction of narrative through the medium of collage. Rooted in the mining of personal history for emotionally significant events, she excavates stories through parallel tracks of written and visual responses exposing the vulnerability of truth-telling. Her process is informed by her dual Bachelor's degrees in Psychology and Studio Arts.

Britton Thorp is a ceramic artist and chef. He received his BFA (2008) from Ohio University and was a resident artist at The University of Arkansas and Michigan State University. Britton's current studio practice includes functional pottery, virtual design, 3D printing and curated dining experiences.

Katie Virag earned a BFA in Sculpture and a BS in Psychology from Louisiana State University in 2013. Her work, primarily sculptural and installation-based, is concerned with the psychological antitheses of the mental state of dissociation - comfort vs discomfort, safety vs danger, and reality vs non-reality.

Peiyuan Xi is a filmmaker who was born and comes from China. After earning his bachelor's degree in Journalism from his hometown, he moved to Syracuse to make films. His works focus on talking about the close relationship and the loneliness in modern city life.

About the Curator

Manuela Hansen is a Fulbright Fellow from Argentina pursuing an MA in Modern and Contemporary Art: Critical and Curatorial Studies at Columbia University. Her field of research includes Contemporary Art with a focus on the Posthuman turn, Institutional Critique, and Latin America. Through a post humanist feminist lens, her thesis focuses on works by Mariko Mori, Anicka Yi and Mika Rottenberg, and argues that they can be seen as challenging pervasive dualisms in Western thought. Manuela currently serves at the Steering Committee of Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery; she has also served at MALBA Joven's Steering Committee (Young Friends Association of the Museum of Latin American Art of Buenos Aires). She has worked as Adjunct Professor of Latin American and Argentinean Art in Universidad del Salvador, Argentina (2016-2019); as Project Manager of Art Basel Cities: Buenos Aires (2017-2019); and as Artistic Director of Buenos Aires Art Week (2019). Manuela earned her Bachelor of Arts (with Honors Diploma) in Arts Management and Art History at Universidad del Salvador Argentina.

Exhibition Venues:

Carrying the Thick Present: Intimacy

Syracuse University Art Museum

Shaffer Art Building

Exhibition dates: April 8 - May 23, 2021

Carrying the Thick Present: Fabulation

Point of Contact Gallery

The Warehouse

350 West Fayette Street

Exhibition Dates: March 30 -May 21, 2021

Carrying the Thick Present: Trauma

Community Folk Art Center

805 E Genesee Street

Exhibition Dates: April 8 - May 23, 2021

For information on upcoming virtual programs such as gallery talks with the curators of virtual exhibitions and close looking object sessions with museum staff examining artworks from the permanent collection, as well as additional virtual exhibitions and activities, make sure to check the website, museum.syr.edu, as well as follow the social media platforms Instagram, Facebook and Twitter @SUArtMuseum.

About the Syracuse University Art Museum

The Syracuse University Art Museum is the campus art museum of Syracuse University. It strives to be a place of rigorous interdisciplinary research, creative thinking, and mindfulness, as well as an inclusive space that serves as a forum for a broad range of discussions that bring people together, uniting the wider community with students, faculty, and staff. A partner of SU's Coalition of Museum and Art Centers, the museum presents up to 20 exhibitions annually, scores of public programs, and an active schedule of class visits. It also manages the Palitz Gallery at the Syracuse University Lubin House in NYC where up to 6 exhibitions a year are

presented. The museum's permanent collection of 45,000 artworks from 3500 BCE to present day includes important holdings from many areas of the world. Over the past 35 years, the museum has shared much of its art collection with peer institutions across the country through its traveling exhibition program.

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