

THE NOTHING THAT IS



The Snow Man

One must have a mind of winter
To regard the frost and the boughs
Of the pine-trees crusted with snow;

And have been cold a long time
To behold the junipers shagged with ice,
The spruces rough in the distant glitter

Of the January sun; and not to think
Of any misery in the sound of the wind,
In the sound of a few leaves,

Which is the sound of the land
Full of the same wind
That is blowing in the same bare place

For the listener, who listens in the snow,
And, nothing himself, beholds
Nothing that is not there and the nothing that is.

- Wallace Stevens

THE NOTHING THAT IS

Holly Boruck

Arminée Chahbazian

Chelsea Dean

Yaron Dotan

Dawn Marie Forsyth

Jenn Fuentes

Kaloust Guedel

Michael Henry Hayden +
Anthony Lepore

Larry Kagan

Andrew Paine

Christine Rasmussen

Colin Roberts

Linda Vallejo

Joséphine Wister Faure

Monica Wyatt

Curated by Yaron Dotan & Christine Rasmussen
November 16, 2019 - January 17, 2020

Humans are innately creative. We have the ability to make something out of nothing, with just our bare hands. But lately our newest innovations have become soulless, the human touch lost in the pursuit of purported efficiency and flawless design.

In this show, the artists bear witness. Observe closely. Respond with hand-crafted objects. Through shadows, empty landscapes, broken and reassembled vessels, depictions of invisible people, and humans distorted by technology, an understanding begins to form. Delacroix said, "I can paint you the skin of Venus with mud, provided you let me surround it as I will." Likewise, the artists declare: We will give you a human being made of emptiness provided you let us surround it as we will.

They ask viewers to see for ourselves, suggesting, as Wallace Stevens did in his poem "The Snow Man," that we behold the "nothing that is not there, and the nothing that is."



ARMINÉE CHAHBAZIAN

Just a Sip

Graphite & colored pencil on paper &
duralar, glass beads
40 x 54 inches

arminee.com

ARMINÉE CHAHBAZIAN

In my series *Displacements*, natural history is interwoven with human consciousness. The vast macro scale of the landscape in tandem with the micro view of its inhabitants jars their natural relationships and an inherent dreaminess emerges. Time feels stopped. While each chosen landscape addresses the beauty, drama and reverence that treasured places have inspired in the human experience, there is a sense that it is all fading away and becoming physically inaccessible, evolving into a figment of human imagination. The life forms and structures occupying these places seem out of their element, displaced and hanging on for their survival. *Displacements* offers a duality of loss and hope. Through monochromatic and carefully layered presentations, these slow-paced narratives inspire quiet contemplation, illuminate changing realities and give voice to the alteration of planet earth.

Arminée Chahbazian received an MFA from Yale University, a BA from Scripps College, and studies at Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture. Born in Colorado, she has lived in France, the eastern US and currently Northern California. Arminée's work has been included in numerous exhibitions across the US, France and Holland and features in many private collections. Recently she has shown at Lois Lambert Gallery, Napa Valley Museum and Sonoma Valley Museum.



CHELSEA DEAN

Constructs of Beauty

Found objects from abandoned homesteads,
24k gold leaf, and enamel paint

10 x 17 x 17 inches

chelseadean.com

CHELSEA DEAN

My mixed media work embodies my attraction to systems that erode. I salvage history, suspending the architecture of Southern California in time with a process of carefully controlled chaos. By combining my photographs with experimental printmaking, drawing, collage, and found objects, I elevate the conflict between order and entropy. My most recent body of work focuses around my fascination with abandoned homesteads in Wonder Valley where I continue to meditate upon the allure of beauty and decay. I gather and incorporate discarded elements from these spaces, assigning new meaning with the addition of gold elements and embellished patterns. Memorializing architectural histories, I emphasize sites in transition to re-contextualize and illuminate their inherent value.

Chelsea Dean was born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona and has a BA in Studio Art from the University of Puget Sound, and an MFA in Drawing from Claremont Graduate University. Chelsea has exhibited throughout Southern California at High Desert Test Sites, The Main Museum, Carl Berg Gallery, Raid Projects, Fellows of Contemporary Art, PØST, Monte Vista Projects, and Cirrus Gallery, as well as internationally at Gallery Lara Tokyo in Tokyo. She currently teaches art full-time in Los Angeles and has a studio in Lincoln Heights.



YARON DOTAN
The Outer World
India ink and gesso on panel
48 x 48 inches

yarondotan.com

YARON DOTAN

"The Riddle of Samson" was created by making hundreds of marker and white-out drawings on a single sheet of 8.5x11" paper. I scanned each hand-drawn image before burying it forever under the drawings that succeeded it. In my optical paintings I want to present 'seeing' without seeing, to explore the vast distances that separate even the most intimate of connections.

Yaron Dotan is a Los Angeles-based artist who works in a variety of media and styles to produce optical drawings, narrative paintings, portraiture and video art. He holds an MFA from Tufts University, an MS Ed. from St. John's University, and a BA in English Literature from Queens College. Internationally he has shown at the the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Art, the Jerusalem Biennale, and Wolf Galentz Gallery in Berlin. In California he has shown at the Coachella Valley Art Center, Durden and Ray, bG Gallery, LAVA Projects, Chimento Contemporary, LACDA and LAMAG. He currently teaches drawing and painting at the Barnsdall Art Center in Los Angeles.



DAWN MARIE FORSYTH
All Torn-up #6
Mixed media
26 x 18 x 10 inches

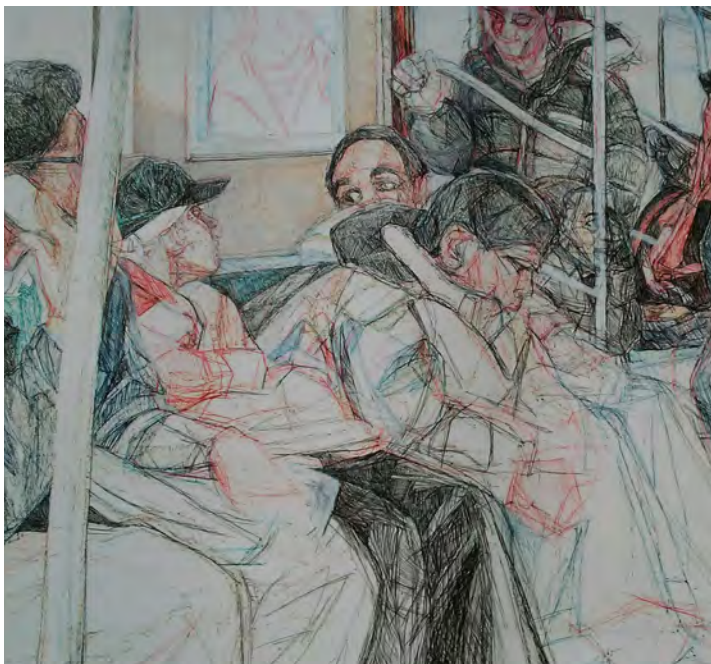
mixedmediartist.com

DAWN MARIE FORSYTH

"All that arises passes away" - Buddha

It is my intention to reveal our individual and collective struggle with beauty, identity and the impermanence of our human form. *All Torn-Up* invites the viewer to visualize new directions for defining beauty. My work examines the standard of beauty the garment industry dictated and contemporary society accepted. Social media compounds societal ideals and our struggles with 'beauty'. These bifurcated body forms are distorted, distressed and reworked to challenge our relationship to our physical selves. I ask the viewer to come face to face with our struggle for perfection, when we no longer fit the constructed paradigm are we imperfect? No-thing lasts indefinitely, not our social constructs, our struggles or our bodies.

Dawn Marie Forsyth is a DTLA artist who uses a deconstruct/reconstruct mixed-media process to create paintings, sculptures and installations that question our concepts of gender, identity and beauty imposed by culture and society. She is a Creative Director at DAFOMA studios and an Educator at The Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising. She has been dedicated to the study of aesthetics through art, fashion and design industries. Her work negotiates our relationship with self, societal ideals and triumph of the spirit.



JENN FUENTES
Subway (Detail)
Ink on paper
48 x 96 inches

JENN FUENTES

Art inspires and nurtures the beauty of human nature. It is essential in a society that perpetuates superficial stereotypes. To combat these stereotypes, my work questions what we consider beautiful, and what constitutes love. I capture honesty and authenticity in my work, painting figures who are extraordinary in their beauty. That beauty is found in their humility, in the way they approach their own image in a mirror, or in how they interact with others who have gained their trust, like a lover or pet. The moments I choose tend to be the most private and vulnerable, when individuals are comfortable in their surroundings. I also examine the ease of spirit that comes from self love, and the love found in friendships, even when in public spaces. In this ease, true beauty is found.

Born and raised in New York City, Jennifer Fuentes is a graduate of Yale's prestigious graduate School of Art. Jennifer's work focuses on the beauty found in everyday life; she features the human form prominently through oil on wood and ink on paper. In addition to making art, Jennifer is a certified teacher who loves guiding her students to explore their own creativity.



KALOUST GUEDEL

Painting #1

Plexiglas, vinyl, acrylic and aluminum

96 x 66 x 15 inches (variable)

zdom.com

KALOUST GUEDEL

My work takes a critical view of social, political and cultural issues. The latest body of work reflects the excesses of the Capitalist system. The concept was born as a result of studio experimentations and research in economics. My paintings are made up of 3 elements - industrial plastic, acrylic and light. I apply acrylic to the industrial plastic from both sides. Maintaining the reflective surface of the plastic allows the light to bounce where painted and penetrate through where it is not painted, creating multiple variations on the same surface for a mysteriously unexpected outcome.

Kaloust Guedel is a LA-based artist of Armenian descent. He is the founder of the Excessivism movement. As an experimental artist, he consistently defines his visual vocabulary. Kaloust's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, and is in numerous collections, including The Charles Saatchi collection of London, and Contemporary Art Museum Yerevan, Armenia. His work has been published in *The Huffington Post*, *New American Paintings*, *Eyes On Abstracts* and many others. In 2017, he was awarded the prestigious Who's Who in American Art award. Kaloust's professional experience as a guest curator includes Forest Lawn Museums, H. Kazan Fine Arts, and Brand Library & Art Center.



MICHAEL HENRY HAYDEN + ANTHONY LEPORE

Door Dasher

Doggy door, aqua wood, resin, dog hair and synthetic hair
Dimensions variable

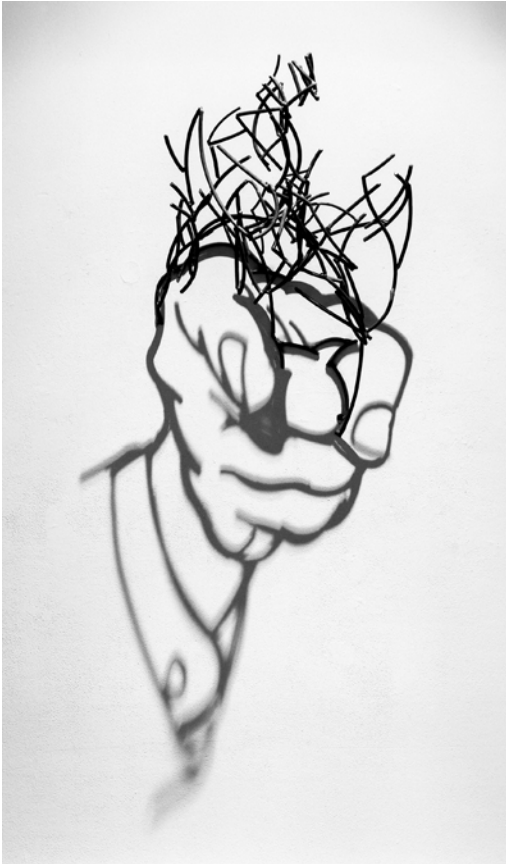
michaelhenryhayden.com + anthonylepore.net

MICHAEL HENRY HAYDEN + ANTHONY LEPORE

As a couple, we have cultivated parallel individual and collaborative art practices, curated historical exhibitions, grown edible gardens, built a shared studio in a working bikini factory, restored a collection of 3000 19th century glass negatives, and reared endangered poisonous frogs. Since 2014, we have worked together on sculptural collaborations. This work finds root in our shared interests and domestic life. The sculpture included here is inspired by our dog Wilby.

Michael Henry Hayden lives and works in LA. He received his MFA from USC, and his BFA from Cooper Union. He has had solo exhibitions at ACME, Steve Turner, and Left Field Gallery. His work has been exhibited at LAXART, Lyles & King, TEAM Gallery, Roberts Projects, M+B, Charlie James, and Xippas.

Anthony Lepore lives and works in LA. He received his MFA from Yale University, and his BFA from Fordham University. He has had solo exhibitions at Moskowitz Bayse, California Museum of Photography, M+B, Ghebaly, Groeflin Maag, Marvelli Gallery, and The Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art. His work is collected by LACMA, The Getty Museum, The Guggenheim, and the Hammer Museum. Hayden and Lepore have presented their collaborations at 356 Mission, Del Vaz Projects, The Finley, and Left Field Gallery.



LARRY KAGAN

My wall mounted sculpture uses steel and light to produce unexpected and impossible to rationalize shadow drawings.

Born in 1946 to holocaust survivors, Larry Kagan's family immigrated to Israel and then to the US. He studied engineering and architecture at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and went on to do his graduate work in studio arts. He has exhibited his sculpture nationally and abroad, and was represented by the OK Harris gallery in New York City. He now resides and maintains his sculpture studio in Los Angeles.

LARRY KAGAN
Yes You
Welded steel
Dimensions variable

larrykagansculpture.com



ANDREW PAINE
Untitled 1
Mixed media
35 x 19.5 x 3 inches

andrewpaine.com

ANDREW PAINE

Since spending the summers with my grandparents in Maine as a young child, I've been inspired by surfaces found in nature. Stone covered with traces of sedimentation, random patterns in sand created by water and wind, the beautiful patterns found in tree bark. As with random textures found in nature, I am also inspired by unintentional textures found in the man-made world, such as traffic-worn paint on a crosswalk, weathered siding, peeling paint. I apply sculptural processes to the world of painting: layering, carving, scraping. Each piece starts with the open mind of an explorer but with a sense of intention, ending with a product that hopefully lends itself to responses that are unique to the viewer with each viewing.

After graduating from the University of Buffalo with a BA in Fine Art, Andrew Paine has applied his creativity to both the visual and musical realm. When not painting and experimenting with a wide variety of mediums and styles, he records and performs with the experimental electronic music duo, *Human Resources*. His paintings and music similarly explore and contain elements of collage, randomness, nature and intentionally leave plenty of space for the viewer and listener to latch on to different elements and respond according to the unique place they are in at that moment.



CHRISTINE RASMUSSEN
Ave 20
Oil on canvas
48 x 60 inches

christinerasmussenart.com

CHRISTINE RASMUSSEN

As an oil painter I investigate the in-between, elevating mundane urban scenes through lush colors and attention to details. I distort space, light, and distance to create dreamlike environments devoid of people, yet full of emotion.

A keen observer and global nomad, I find familiarity in every city I live or visit - in the through-lines of fences, back alleys, doorways, windows and grates. By making connections in paint between disparate geographic locations, I explore themes of belonging, boundaries and aloneness, recognizing the simple truth that everyone has experienced feeling like an outsider.

Christine Rasmussen is a professional artist with a BA from UC Berkeley in Art Practice and Peace & Conflict Studies. Recent accomplishments include Jen Tough Gallery's The Ladies Room exhibit, a solo show at LAUNCH LA, a Chalk Hill Artist Residency and the prestigious Artist Label Program at Imagery Estate Winery. Her work features in private collections across the world and in the Hilbert Museum of California Art. Raised in Pakistan, Vietnam and the US, Christine now lives and works in Los Angeles.



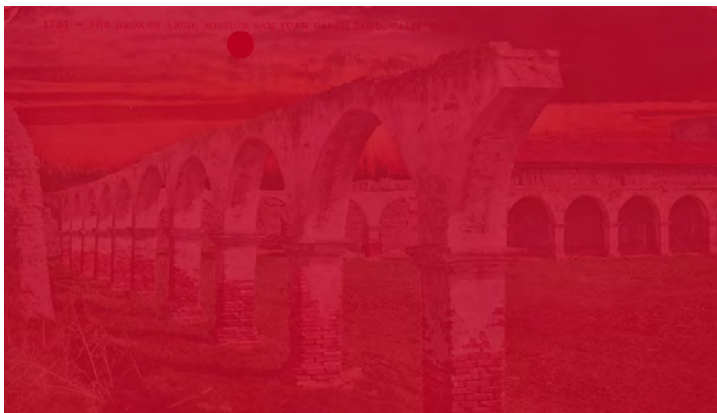
COLIN ROBERTS
Holograph Pillow
Plexiglass and glue
20 x 20 x 14 inches

colinrobertsart.com

COLIN ROBERTS

Colin Roberts is a LA based artist whose work consists of sculpture, drawings and installations that explore various themes around the fragile human condition. The work evokes uncanny imagery from both past and present cultures and obscures it in strange and fantastical ways using surrealism, outsider art, and abject tactics. Kaleidoscopic Glass Pillows, and sculptures made of Bubblewrap are just two of the dream-like creations that make up his body of work. Constant exploration of material and techniques combine with mined imagery from a vast array of sources. A careful balance of humor, science and horror calculated to lead the viewer to question their personal thoughts on various subjects, the works have the ability to cross significant cultural, social and psychic boundaries.

Colin received his BFA from Otis School of Art and Design in 2001. He has had solo exhibitions at Steve Turner Gallery, Patricia Faure Gallery and Monte Vista Projects. Colin has also participated in exhibitions at The Skirball Cultural Center, Mark Moore Gallery, June Lee Contemporary, Gavin Brown's Passerby Gallery NY, Torrance Art Museum, The Depart Foundation, LAMAG, Wolf and Galentz Berlin and many others. Colin's work resides in collections worldwide and he is currently represented by June Lee Contemporary in Orange County. He is also the founder and director of LAVA Projects Art Gallery in Los Angeles.



LINDA VALLEJO
San Juan Capistrano I
C print of repurposed and manipulated
antique photograph
60 x 40 inches

lindavallejo.com

LINDA VALLEJO

San Juan Capistrano I & II ask the viewer to stop and consider the color red historically, symbolically, and culturally. What does it mean to envelope the image of Mission San Juan Capistrano in red? What does this color mean? What does this color signify in this situation?

These images were taken from antique postcards of the California Missions, scanned and manipulated through several processes to create an original image - essentially a photographic image rendered from a historic image manipulated with a modern machine. Just as these images are several steps from the original, our understanding and response to an image is often several steps away from reality. Linda Vallejo investigates contemporary cultural and political issues, influenced from a life of study and travel throughout Europe, the US and Mexico. Recent achievements include a solo exhibition of her series *Make 'Em All Mexican*, *The Brown Dot Project*, and *Datos Sagrados* at L.A. Plaza de Cultura y Artes, features on the cover of the *LA Times* Calendar Section, and the Getty Foundation's 2017 Initiative *Pacific Standard Time: PST LA/LA*. Her work is in the permanent collections of museums and universities across the US. Linda lives in Topanga Canyon, CA.



JOSEPHINE WISTER FAURE

Going Under

Mixed media installation

Dimensions variable

josephinewisterfaure.com

JOSEPHINE WISTER FAURE

My work is built around experiments on narration through video, performance, installation, sculpture and text. I present a moment in a story that often revolves around an accident. A sense of threat entwined with fantasy and femininity haunts each of these narratives, and the viewer is driven to search for clues. I stage spirits by using special effect techniques and question the mechanisms of perception. My aim is to capture the ethereal, the illusion that is present in art. I want to seize that instant where you experience a double-take and question the magic in a piece and, in turn, your own reality.

French-American artist, Joséphine Wister Faure graduated from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts of Paris. She has taken part in various exhibitions in France: Fondation d'Entreprise Ricard, Le Plateau, Centre Pompidou. Her work travelled to Italy, Germany, the United States and China.

Parallel to her visual artwork, Joséphine has regularly worked in film, crafting props and accessories, which has led her to perfect different special effects techniques that serve her in her personal work. She lives and works in Los Angeles and in Paris.



MONICA WYATT
Continuum
Mixed media installation
Dimensions variable

monicawyatt.com

MONICA WYATT

The inspiration for my assemblage work hinges on reincarnating and merging discarded and unusual materials into sculptural vignettes. My process is intuitive, experimental, and transformative: disparate combinations are reincarnated into whimsical and imagined organic forms. I hope to jostle the viewer's imagination by offering reflections of stories in which they, like the materials, are transformed by infinite possibilities.

Monica Wyatt is a Los Angeles based mixed media artist who re-imagines unexpected and overlooked materials, transforming them into intimate assemblage sculpture. Through her material alchemy, ordinary objects metamorphose into poetic three dimensional creations that appear to have evolved organically. Monica's recent exhibitions include a solo show at the Lancaster Museum of Art and History in 2018. She was featured as the inaugural artist at State Gallery, Santa Barbara in 2018, awarded Best in Show at Blackboard Gallery, Camarillo in 2015, and was the Los Angeles Art Association's featured assemblage artist at the 2014 Beverly Hills Art Show. Her work is also shown at Eisenhower Gallery on Martha's Vineyard and in numerous juried and curated shows throughout California. Monica co-curated "Walking Upstream" at The Loft Gallery in San Pedro, California in 2018. Her work is held in private collections across the United States. Monica is a graduate of UC Berkeley.

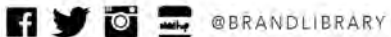


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