

MILLS

PRESS RELEASE

Contact:
Maysoun Wazwaz
Mills College Art Museum, Program Manager
510.430.3340 or mwazwaz@mills.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 26, 2014



Mills College Senior Thesis Exhibition April 1-20, 2014

Opening Reception: Saturday, April 5, 2014 | 6:00-8:00 pm | MCAM

Night of Performances: Wednesday, April 16, 2014 | 7:00-8:00 pm | MCAM

Oakland, CA—February 26, 2014. The Mills College Art Museum is pleased to announce *Close at Hand*, the 2014 Senior Thesis Exhibition on view from April 1-20, 2014. An annual exhibition featuring the work of graduating Studio Art Majors, the Senior Thesis Exhibition provides a unique opportunity to these young artists—for many of them, their first exhibition in a professional art museum. This year's presenting artists are Lora ChauDavis, Vanessa Cisneros, Sarah DePol, Kate Rose, Bridget Shaw, Minna Smith, Bridget Stagnitto, Anna Torres, and Christina Yglesias.

Working in a wide range of mediums from painting, sculpture, photography, video, sound, light, installation, and public art, the artists in *Close at Hand* present ambitious work that is

conceptually challenging, experimental, and socially engaged. The caliber of work coming out of this year's graduating class leaves us, as the title suggests, in anticipation of what they will do next.

THE ARTISTS

Lora ChauDavis creates sculptural, mixed-media paintings with used clothing, thread, and other found materials. Working with the parts of clothing that have been close to the body, stained, stretched thin, and worn down, each work exposes a moment of growth and deterioration.

Vanessa Cisneros uses triangular shaped canvases and sculptural forms to examine the transition of simple ideas into physically and theoretically complex works. Cisneros challenges the viewer to examine their own transitions and the various forms those transitions may take.

Using salvaged waste to explore order, purpose, and utility, **Sarah DePol** questions the visual possibilities of materials often considered repulsive and useless.

Kate Rose creates small photographic worlds that are eerily parallel to this one. Recalling the unnatural illumination of metropolitan night in her palette and content, she explores the visceral impact of dramatic scale shifts.

Bridget Shaw considers personal connection to nature through the formal elements of line, shape, and color. Working in mixed media and painting, Shaw uses these elements as a means to explore the visual qualities of organic matter, while functioning as a metaphor for personal timelines and emotions associated with natural spaces.

Minna Smith explores the themes of illusion and disenchantment in domestic life. Through painting and photography, she examines the ways in which mass-produced images influence our minds, thereby calling into question the amount of autonomy we exercise in choosing our private desires and expectations.

Bridget Stagnitto constructs oscillating spaces between the human world and the natural world. Taking inspiration from history, natural elements, spirituality, and human-made materials, she stimulates a sense of a malleable truth.

Anna Torres explores the duality that exists within her Mexican-American identity. Her work addresses the tension between history and modernity through the juxtaposition of the traditional medium of painting and contemporary digital technology.

Christina Yglesias appropriates archetypal romance movies and re-presents them as large scale, video installations. Redirecting attention through reduction, she leaves only one trope of the genre to consider—the lovers' stares—allowing the viewers a more critical look at these familiar images that have likely played a role in forming their ideas about love and romance.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Visit mcam.mills.edu for full details.

BEAMS

A collaboration between composer Alvin Curran and choreographer Molissa Fenley

Tuesday, April 1, 2014 | 5:00 pm & 6:30 pm | MCAM

BEAMS is a structured improvisation piece composed by Alvin Curran for upwards of 15 musicians playing primarily acoustic instruments and objects. For this particular performance at the Mills College Art Museum, Curran wrote a series of instructions to be interpreted by his musicians and sent those to Fenley. Fenley, in turn, reconfigured the musical instructions into a dance language that could be interpreted by her dancers. Together a textured performance of movement and sound emerges.

Close at Hand Opening Reception

Saturday, April 5, 2014 | 6:00-8:00 pm | MCAM

Join the artists in *Close at Hand* in celebrating the completion of their Studio Art degree. Refreshments provided.

Postal Mortem Pledge Drive with Jennie Ottinger

Saturday, April 12, 2014 | 2:00-4:00 pm | MCAM

Saving the United States post office from financial ruin is no easy task. But you can help! Jennie Ottinger invites you to participate in her pledge drive hosted by Wonderment Consortium (Packard Jennings, Steuart Pittman, and Scott Vermeire). With your support we can kick start the old-fashioned way and rescue this indispensable institution.

Close at Hand: A Night of Performances

Wednesday, April 16, 2014 | 7:00-8:00 pm | MCAM

Join the artists in *Close at Hand* along with students from the Dance, Music, and English Departments for an evening of performances.

About the Mills College Art Museum

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

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

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