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Media Contact: Christa Cesario
MCAM Program Director
(510) 430-3340 | ccesario@mills.edu

Mills Art+Process+Ideas Artist Residency Makes Its Post-Pandemic Return with Craig Calderwood and Christy Chan

The Artists are back on campus after a hiatus at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.



(L) Craig Calderwood, *Untitled (Immature)*, 2018, Dimensional Paint, thread, pen, upholstery fabric, 60" x 77"

(R) Christy Chan, *Dear America Fix Your Racism*, 2021, Documentation of video projection installation *Dear America*. Photo by Christy Chan.

Oakland, CA (January 13, 2022) — Mills College Art Museum and the Mills College Art and Visual Culture Department are thrilled to welcome back our sixth round of artists Craig Calderwood and Christy Chan to the 2022 Art+Process+Ideas (A+P+I) artist-in-residence program. After the COVID-19 pandemic put their 2020 A+P+I residency on hiatus, the Artists are safely back on campus, in new studios, and ready to engage the Mills community.

Each artist embraces creative risk and complexity around issues of identity. Craig Calderwood uses commercial craft materials—fabric paint, polymer clay, and found fabrics—to create intricate decorative works that speak to queer and trans communities through a shared language of symbols and patterns. An interdisciplinary artist, Christy Chan uses video, performance, and installation to tell stories about

race, power, and national identity. The A+P+I program was established to support Bay Area artists making socially relevant work that challenges and inspires Mills students and MCAM audiences.

In addition to public events and an exhibition in Summer 2022, throughout the residency term A+P+I artists will open-up their practice to students on campus through presentations, workshops, studio visits, and installation walkthroughs. The residency exposes Mills student artists to an expanded company of artists from diverse practices, media, and backgrounds.

Launched in 2015, the A+P+I artist-in-residence program at Mills College seeks to expand the dialogue around art and art-making on campus and throughout the Bay Area. A partnership between the [Mills College Art and Visual Culture Department](#) and Mills College Art Museum, the A+P+I residency fosters interdisciplinary collaboration across departments and provides opportunities for the students, faculty, and staff of Mills College, as well as the larger Bay Area arts community, to interact, learn, and work with these visiting artists.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



A self-taught artist, [Craig Calderwood's](#) intricate and decorative works are rendered through a personal vernacular of symbols and patterns. Recalling the private languages that underground communities of queer and trans people used for safety for decades, Calderwood develops these patterns and symbols through research into history, personal narratives, and pop cultural moments. They then arrange them into constellations to tell stories both personal and fantasized.

Utilizing low-end materials like fabric paint, polymer clay, found fabrics and fibre tip pens, Calderwood explores ideas around desire, biodiversity, and otherness. They also look at how material practice forms its own language for safe and coded communication within hostile environments.

Flexing the intended use of their mediums, Calderwood's work moves through the material ideologies of painting, drawing, and textile, to form images whose lines and textures teeter between thread and paint, blurring not just the binaries of their materials, but of their subjects.



[Christy Chan](#) is an interdisciplinary artist who works in video, narrative filmmaking, installation, storytelling and community organizing to create participatory platforms for dialogue around race, class and social justice issues. Her hybrid social practice-public art projects seek to foster opportunities for self-representation by communities of color, with the belief that storytelling is a form of narrative justice and narrative justice is a form of social justice. Her work has been included in exhibitions at YBCA, Southern Exposure, SOMArts, and the Chinese Historical Society of America Museum in San

Francisco; The New York State Council of the Arts and Wassaic Project in New York; Film Independent in Los Angeles and on various programs on NPR. She has been awarded residencies and support from SFFILM, Montalvo Art Center, Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, Kala Art Institute, Real Time and Space and others. She is the founding artist of *Dear America*, a mobile, guerilla public art project that projects the art works of Asian Americans artists throughout the Bay Area. Chan holds an M.A. in Communication Arts from Virginia Commonwealth University.

The 2022 Art+Process+Ideas Artist Residency is supported through the generosity of the Agnes Cowles Bourne Fund for Special Exhibitions.

ABOUT MILLS COLLEGE ART MUSEUM

Founded in 1925, 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: Tuesday-Sunday 11:00am-4:00pm, Wednesday 11:00am-7:30pm

Admission is FREE and open to the public.
