

## **I HeART Connection**

**Art Therapy Institute of NC**

**February 11 – March 10, 2022**

The Art Therapy Institute is proud to present a special community exhibit centering the power of connection and elevating artistic voices from members of the ATI community.

Artists were encouraged to consider the following questions:

How have you connected more deeply with yourself? With the creative process? With nature? With others? With Humor? With feelings? What connections do you hope to nourish? What connections have you built?

As a bonus challenge, artists were asked to include a hidden heart for the viewer to uncover.

*\*Please be mindful, some items in the exhibit depict nudity.*





*Georgian National Carpet, 2014*

159 x 79 cm

Felt technology, material wool, polyester (underlay), metal (hanger)

## ANA LAGIDZE

Tbilisi, Georgia

### ARTIST STATEMENT

I'm Ana Lagidze, Architect and artist from Georgia. I studied and graduated from the Architecture Department of Tbilisi State Academy of Fine Arts and graduated from the Professional College (Tbilisi, Georgia). 2013-2016 Tbilisi State Technical University (Georgia) doctoral level.

From 2013 year I'm working as Art Manager, organize international art festivals, international art exhibitions, art projects, workshop around the world. Last 2 year I organize International online art exhibition, biennial, workshop. Teaching Art, Textile design

From 2011 year I'm working in Textile, in dry technology, felting, batik, quilt. All my art works are felt, batik and quilt (textile) technology, its dry felting made by wool and needle and cold batik (all my works have their own hanger and also frame wallpaper). My art works are decorative.

From 2017 year I'm Assistant-Professor in University of Georgia and Lecturer.

[Artist Social Media](#)



*Ubuntu, 2021*  
10 x 8 in  
Ceramic

## MATILDE MAGRO

Portugal

### ARTIST STATEMENT

*It's one artwork made from a lot of small ceramic pieces inside of a box, the work seems unfinished because it's a work in progress.*

Regenerative Designer, Writer, Artist, Teacher and Meditation and Spiritual Guide - I serve as I love.

I'm an ecology and social complexity specialist and I love to mix this knowledge in my art.

I do ceramics, digital art, and drawing.

[Artist Website](#)



*We Are Together, 2021*  
8 x 10 in  
Ceramic

## MATILDE MAGRO

Portugal

### ARTIST STATEMENT

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[Artist Website](#)



*Pandemic Heroes, 2021*

32 x 42 cm

Watercolor

## EMEL ÇEVİKCAN

Turkey

### ARTIST STATEMENT

By observing the details of everyday surroundings, I find endless ideas from Nature. Working with watercolor has always been the choice for me because it flows from the brush and is never the same application.

In our day, when time flows very rapidly, when we can look at everything with a short break, inspired by art and based on the joy of life it gives, love in my paintings. Sharing. I try to convey our amazing transformation with nature to people with the language of colors and forms. Art and nature are the basis of our existence. Life without art is like a desert without water. In these days when the pandemic has kept people away from each other, I think that the only element that allows us to reproduce life is that we should be inspired by realizing the works of art. Replicates. Converts. It overcomes the obstacles and enables us to exist.

[Artist Website](#)





*Women and Man, 2021*  
35 x 50 cm  
Watercolor

EMEL ÇEVIKCAN

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[Artist Website](#)



*Merging 1, 2021*  
47 x 71 cm  
Digital Photography

## EVA WANG

Edinburgh

### ARTIST STATEMENT

*The action of using body to touch as many objects as possible in the space is explored in Merging, which shows how self cannot accept the distinction between the body and everything else and the desire of merging the body with all the surroundings to achieve the sense of unity.*

I consider myself a photographer using emotions to connect with the world. Common themes are emotions or situations we cannot fully control. Most work is staged conceptual photography which can involve installation and sculpture. I try to recreate and capture abstract emotions by exploring their connections and interactions with physical objects and the environment, then projecting the meanings onto staged scenes.

Specifically, my work explores interpersonal relationships and desire. I interpret these concepts through photographing a variety of subjects: from objects such as dummies and iron powder to people. My choice of objects is dependent on the information they could carry. I draw from works of Francesca Woodman and Bernard Faucon. Woodman's subject of her naked body inspires me of using myself in photos as I am also expressing my personal feelings. Faucon's capture of sunlight in small simple rooms in his series ROOMS OF LOVE triggers my thoughts about its relation to emptiness.

My work is also intended to invite viewers to associate themselves with its topic, relate their stories, and generate their thoughts and feelings. For example, I have a series of photographs exploring conscious struggle due to social pressures. This complex psychological activity is usually hidden and easily overlooked. Living in a society in China focusing on rapid economic development, individuals' emotional expression can be limited, which can lead to mental disconnection to their living environment. By making people aware of the emotions, my work helps to create an outlet that connects the inner and outer world, generating energy that comforts viewers to build a stronger existence in the society by knowing their emotional weakness is shared and understood.

Ideas rather than technical skills are the motivations and core. I always produce a sequential series of photographs in which the changing object tells the key story. To support transformation, I have experimented with various materials, water, fire and magnets. I use digital cameras mainly for their efficient and effective functionality. Temporality and tableau emphasize the concepts behind the photographs instead of simply moments of beauty.

My goal is to address emotions we have difficulty dealing with, in order to help ourselves understand those issues better and create a stronger connection in the society.

[Artist Website](#)



*Merging 2, 2021*  
47 x 71 cm  
Digital Photography

## EVA WANG

Edinburgh

### ARTIST STATEMENT

*The action of using body to touch as many objects as possible in the space is explored in Merging, which shows how self cannot accept the distinction between the body and everything else and the desire of merging the body with all the surroundings to achieve the sense of unity.*

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[Artist Website](#)





*Waiting, 2020*  
From the series "Blown Reality"  
60 x 80 cm  
Oil on Canvas

## YULIYA SHULYATYEVA

Russia

### ARTIST STATEMENT

*The series shows the reality that surrounds us from a different perspective. Unusual inflatable forms in the interior and on the street, that are around the characters of the paintings, balance and create imagery. The relationship between a person and forms as a sensation of another reality. These positive images lift the spirits of the spectator, setting him/her at contemplation of the outside world in a new way. Especially when sculptural forms are placed in pictures together with the main character, and not as we are used to being heroes and watching them ourselves. At the moment, there are 10 works in this series.*

My name is Yulia Shulyatieva. I am a professional artist. I paint in oils and sometimes use other techniques. I was born in Ukraine. I have been doing art since childhood. When I was 5 years old, my parents recognized my talent and advised me to go to art school. It was then that my career as an artist began. I graduated from the Crimean Humanitarian University in Yalta, graphics department. Now I have been living in Siberia for 6 years.

I used to paint still lifes and landscapes. Recently, I have been revealing the theme of nature in my work.

I work at home in the workshop. I am planning a personal exhibition at which I want to show my perception of the world.

[Artist Social Media](#)



*Inflated Fantasy, 2020*  
From the series "Blown Reality"  
60 x 73 cm  
Oil on Canvas

## YULIYA SHULYATYEVA

Russia

### ARTIST STATEMENT

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[Artist Social Media](#)



*Limitless, 2021*  
8 x 8 in  
Yarn on Canvas

## CHRISTINE WILLIAMS

Maryland, United States

### ARTIST STATEMENT

*This art piece depicts my ambitious nature and that I am limitless in the things that I will accomplish in life. I am going all the way to the top!*

Christine Williams is a Maryland poet and artist. She writes poems based on life experiences. When it comes to her art, her favorite medium to work with is yarn on canvas. She appreciates patterns and making various shapes by mixing colors of yarn and making a work of art. However, she likes to express herself through various ways. Christine is as unique and bold as the art she creates.

In her career she has taught various art classes including, basket weaving, pottery, African jewelry/beads, African print making, calabash bowl making, and drum making, just to name a few. Teaching art, and making it, is her passion.

Some of her work has been featured at the 2021 Roco 6 x 6 exhibit at the Rochester Contemporary Art Center in Rochester, New York and online through the Las Laguna Art Gallery. Christine's art has also been showcased with the Prince George's Parks and Recreation, ACHD Visual Arts Program, in Fort Washington, MD. You can find her work in multiple international publications, and she has won an award for one of her pieces. Her work is also featured in private collections in Cincinnati, OH, Zieglerville, PA, Washington, DC, Bladensburg, MD, and Upper Marlboro, MD.



*Yin and Yang, 2021*  
20 x 20 in  
Yarn on Canvas

## CHRISTINE WILLIAMS

Maryland, United States

### ARTIST STATEMENT

*This is my artistic interpretation of the yin and yang symbol.*

Christine Williams is a Maryland poet and artist. She writes poems based on life experiences. When it comes to her art, her favorite medium to work with is yarn on canvas. She appreciates patterns and making various shapes by mixing colors of yarn and making a work of art. However, she likes to express herself through various ways. Christine is as unique and bold as the art she creates.

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*Half-Heart, 2021*  
14 x 11 in  
Oil on Canvas

## LEEMOUR GUNZENHAUSER

NYC, United States

### ARTIST STATEMENT

*Two figures are depicted in some kind of connection or inter-relation. They seem entwined. The figures are as if x-rayed, depicted with their inner organs and one figure has a full enlarged heart while the other is depicted with half a heart. The viewer is thus left to question the relationship.*

Leemour Pelli is an artist who lives and works in New York City. She is a graduate of the School of Visual Arts (B.F.A., painting), and Hunter College (Master of Arts degree in Art History). In 2008, the artist had her first solo exhibition at the Daneyal Mahmood Gallery in New York. Her other recent solo exhibitions include two at the Annina Nosei Gallery in New York in 2004 and 2005, and in 2003 at the Art Gallery of the University of Central Florida in Orlando. The University published a catalogue, and produced a mini-documentary about the artist and her work.

Pelli's recent exhibitions include the Robert Fontaine Gallery in Miami, Kinz Tillou and Feigen Gallery, the Whitney Museum the American Art at Champion, Connecticut, PS1 Institute of Contemporary Art, Long Island City, Spaces Contemporary Art Center in Ohio, and the Artcore Gallery in Toronto. Her work has been reviewed in various publications including ArtForum (2008), Art News, The New York Times, New York Arts Magazine, Tema Celeste, and The Globe and Mail.

In my work I focus on the human condition and interrelationships in contemporary existence. I depict figures interacting in heightened states of emotion, states of solitude, creativity, or love and connection. The depth of the human heart, within personal and universal struggles and realities is explored. By incorporating anatomical and medical imagery in my work, the paintings become like x-rays of life, or x-rays of figures or certain situations. The human figure or landscape is explored in an anatomical, medical, and poetic way - as a place of memory, interaction, and transformation, all through the power of time.

[Artist Website](#)





*Journey II, 2021*  
14 x 11 in  
Oil on Canvas

## LEEMOUR GUNZENHAUSER

NYC, United States

### ARTIST STATEMENT

*This is part of a series of paintings called Journey I and II. Two figures are depicted in a wood-like setting with castles. The figures inner organs are depicted in an emotional state of movement - and the viewer is left to experience and question the connection.*

Leemour Pelli is an artist who lives and works in New York City. She is a graduate of the School of Visual Arts (B.F.A., painting), and Hunter College (Master of Arts degree in Art History). In 2008, the artist had her first solo exhibition at the Daneyal Mahmood Gallery in New York. Her other recent solo exhibitions include two at the Annina Nosei Gallery in New York in 2004 and 2005, and in 2003 at the Art Gallery of the University of Central Florida in Orlando. The University published a catalogue, and produced a mini-documentary about the artist and her work.

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[Artist Website](#)



*Chained Heart, 2021*  
24 x 18 in  
Digital Art

## KAT TREVINO

United States

### ARTIST STATEMENT

I find I create about people that are tied to a struggle that binds them from freedom (flight). Even on the edge of the sea where the winds carry my worries away, the tides bring them back in. So close to paradise yet so far - I create Art that moves people, that changes people and gives expression to share with the World. I want to be a part of this change and give people hope through Art.

I just wrapped up a show in London at Boomer Gallery on the London Bridge Tower with much success. UK's Art Hole just published my work in this month's edition. LOUPE ART - channel has added me to their Artist's Collection. I am now on TV and streaming my new line 24-7 internationally.

I just won a blue ribbon - 2nd place for my digital art from LightSpaceTime from over 1,432 ENTRIES from 31 different countries as well as 37 different states of District of Columbia.

I have been commissioned by the cities of Palm Springs, Cathedral City, L.A. and Sherman Oaks Public Art to design street art for their Art District. I participated as a muralist with my piece, "Butterfly Skies" in Los Angeles' "Mural Row" on the 101 Hollywood FWY - that adorned the city and was seen by millions.

This July, I made cover and featured Artist in MVIBE MAGAZINE. The Sun Newspaper dedicated their entire Living Section front page to me, highlighting my work and featured my Mural work. I was also named "Artist of the Year" by Inland Empire Magazine where four full pages focused on my own Art Style "Kattmopsheres."

In March 2020, my art made the cover of 'Arts of Poetry' Magazine along with several of my art pieces highlighted and featured poetry.

During this Pandemic, I have been creating even more frequently as Art Heals and has been considered therapy. Visual art is vital for each of us as a community and as individuals to help express ourselves and connect. It has been a privilege to be part of the Arts where everyone can come together as one.

[Artist Website](#)



*Timekeeper, 2021*  
24 x 18 in  
Digital Art

## KAT TREVINO

United States

### ARTIST STATEMENT

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[Artist Website](#)





*After the Chaos, 1, 2021*  
60 x 35 cm  
Oil Paint on Canvas

## WERONIKA PIÓREK

Poland

### ARTIST STATEMENT

My newest series of paintings and collages “After the Chaos” are my expressions of the healing process after experiencing “Chaos.” This term for me means the transition from my younger self to the person I am today. “Chaos” refers also to my Graduate Diploma from 2016 which I created being inspired by the Ancient Greek description which states that “it was the personification of the primordial vacuum (the state before the elements of the universe were ordered). It was the primordial state of existence from which the first gods

(Earth and Heaven) originated, and was a place without fixed directions where everything falls apart in different directions.” In my newest works I staple the ripped pieces of canvas back together and I use different parts of various raw materials in order to compose them together in a coherent image. I don’t beautify the pictures, showing the imperfections of used uneven scraps of materials, emphasizing their structures by covering them in a layer of paint.

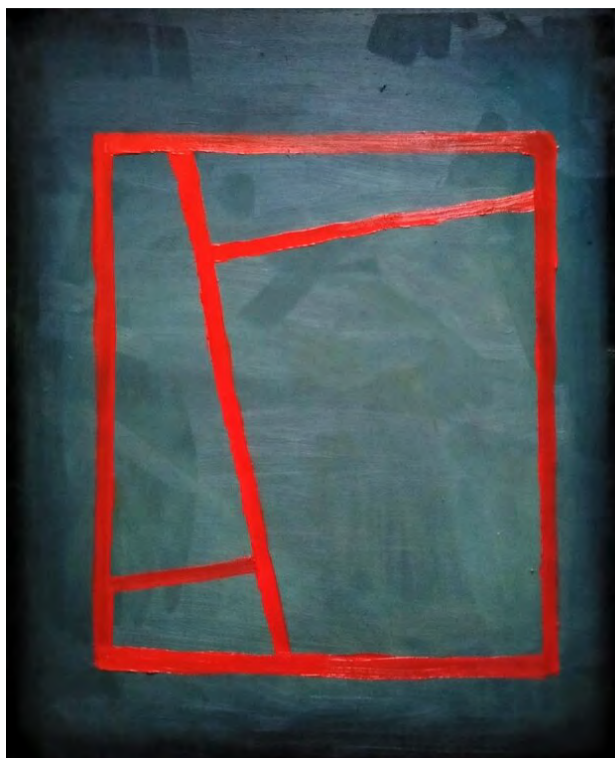
The compatibility with the “Chaos” has been broken, what we see now are more orderly composed images. It is not a disordered creativity, rather a well thought composition where each element has its own very precise place.

Painter, visual artist.

Graduated from Fine Art Academy in Cracov in 2016.

At the Faculty of Painting and International Catalan University in Barcelona. At the Faculty of Art and Cultural Management in 2021.

[Artist Social Media](#)



*After the Chaos, 2, 2021*  
70 x 50 cm  
Oil Paint on Canvas

## WERONIKA PIÓREK

Poland

### ARTIST STATEMENT

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Painter, visual artist.

Graduated from Fine Art Academy in Cracov in 2016.

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[Artist Social Media](#)





*Untitled, 2021*  
70 x 50 cm  
Acrylic and Oil On Canvas

## SHIR BECK

Eilat, Israel

### ARTIST STATEMENT

My name is Shir Beck and I am an artist who paints in oil and acrylic. In my paintings, I feel there is a duet of painting between the canvas and the rag that I use. It is a non-stop dance until I finish the painting.

In my paintings, there is a reflection of the view of the Eilat sea and the desert. My painting expresses my feelings and sensations in the journey of my life.

In my youth I danced flamenco for many years. I volunteered for animal foster care.



*Untitled, 2021*  
70 x 50 cm  
Acrylic and Oil On Canvas

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*Magical Things from Recovery Locket, 2021*  
12 x 12 in  
Watercolor on Paper

## MERIDITH MCNEAL

Brooklyn, NY, United States

### ARTIST STATEMENT

*Magical Things, my ongoing series of watercolors, venerates the easily overlooked objects of everyday life. Mundane objects become totems, Milagros-charms of mindfulness, imbued with a power greater than the sum of their parts. After NYC implemented mandatory stay-at-home, I began a trajectory of this work: *Magical Things From Quarantine* and more recently *Magical Things from Recovery*. Included in this series are portraits of objects that were most meaningful to me during this strange and disorienting time.*

Meridith McNeal is a Brooklyn-based artist represented by Figureworks Gallery in NYC. She has been a frequent Visiting Artist at the American Academy in Rome. Her work has received numerous awards. Most recently, Meridith was honored as a 2020 Artists of the Year by the Circle Foundation for the Arts in Lyon, France. Meridith regularly exhibits her artwork throughout the US and abroad. Her exhibition *Graceful Confusion* will be on view at Magazzino Gallery, Palazzo Polignac, Venice, Italy in 2022.

[Artist Social Media](#)



*Magical Things from Quarantine Democracy Pattern, 2021*  
12 x 12 in  
Watercolor on Paper

## MERIDITH MCNEAL

Brooklyn, NY, United States

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[Artist Social Media](#)





*Rainy Meeting on an Unreliable Bridge, 2020*  
20 x 15 in  
Mascara on Chinese Paper

## NATALIA GARBER

Moscow, Russia

### ARTIST STATEMENT

*Story of bridging my heart in pandemic: During pandemic I was my own self-therapist, because I passed exams of the 14-module course “Discovering Buddhism” for a year since spring 2020. I started to do paintings of meanings at that time spontaneously, and this artwork helped me during hard times of soul cleaning in pandemic. The experience was painful as I worked with the feeling of disconnection with my frozen heart. And after a year of meditations and painting, I moved from the feeling of fearfully & painfully staying on an unreliable bridge to a calm feeling of a builder of the royal bridge to new life.*

I express heart vibrations of the Universe since I was two. At the age of five I fell in love with the statue of David by Michelangelo in the Pushkin Museum of Arts. Since then I'm a New Renaissance transformational science artist and art therapist. I create dynamic digital metaverse of visual and poetic healing art, merging ancient spirit and virtual reality of the noosphere. Friends say that I reveal angels hidden in people. My strategy is global collaborations for the benefit of all living beings of Earth.

[Artist Social Media](#)





*The Royal Bridge, 2020*  
20 x 15 in  
Mascara on Chinese Paper

## NATALIA GARBER

Moscow, Russia

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[Artist Social Media](#)



*Hunger*  
100 x 90 cm  
Acrylic on Canvas

## MATHILDE LAM

Belgium

### ARTIST STATEMENT

The works of Mathilde Lâm begin with the search for her heritage/ identity as a half-Asian person. Through inspiration from Taoism, she explores the harmony between nature and humanity which symbolizes the balance between east and west. The women she paints are one with nature and thus one with their origin. She furthermore focuses on the humanization of mainly Asian women, who are constantly stereotyped as weak or hypersexualized objects. The women she paints are her own subconsciousness as well as every woman that experiences the pressure of today's society that is built on the male gaze. Their worn-out glances, covering clothes and staring faces confront those who dehumanize them.

[Artist Website](#)



*Golden Village*  
70 x 60 cm  
Acrylic on Canvas

## MATHILDE LAM

Belgium

### ARTIST STATEMENT

The works of Mathilde Lâm begin with the search for her heritage/ identity as a half-Asian person. Through inspiration from Taoism, she explores the harmony between nature and humanity which symbolizes the balance between east and west. The women she paints are one with nature and thus one with their origin. She furthermore focuses on the humanization of mainly Asian women, who are constantly stereotyped as weak or hypersexualized objects. The women she paints are her own subconsciousness as well as every woman that experiences the pressure of today's society that is built on the male gaze. Their worn-out glances, covering clothes and staring faces confront those who dehumanize them.

[Artist Website](#)



*A laugh with only a shell*  
70 x 53 cm  
Oil Painting

## LIM JANG GUIN

### ARTIST STATEMENT

*People who are physically fine but have mental problems get along well with normal people, but sometimes play pranks. It is an expression of a situation where you are sometimes ridiculed, but you have no choice but to laugh.*

I started painting late because I went to work after graduating from university. Now I know what I want. That's why I'm devoting myself to creative work. I think this is the process of getting to know me.

My artwork orientation: There are two implications for my work internally. These implications document social issues or feelings of the human heart on the basis of its essence.

The first are those who have the most influence on Cubism, which transforms 3D into 2D. If Cubism's method is to show various viewpoints of 3D objects at once, unfolded 3D objects do not have various viewpoints. If you open the shell of the 3D sculpture that will move in the 360-degree direction to appreciate the courtesy 3D sculpture, we don't have to move to see the side and front. This is the difference between writers who pursue Cubism. There is no need for time and space here, there is no past, there is no future, there is only the present. There is also the statement from a physicist that time doesn't flow.

Second, everything that exists in this world is there and we express it in a variety of ways. I use the point of my work on a kind of skin and skin itself to express my feeling of short touch.

Based on this I will remove all limitations, and now tell you the meaning of my work. With interest in social issues or problems, I am trying to send a message about racism, violence, religion and power.

[Artist Social Media](#)





*Yahoo, 2021*  
70 x 50 cm  
Oil Painting

## LIM JANG GUIN

### ARTIST STATEMENT

*It expresses joy.*

*I don't know what kind of joy it is.*

*3D turned into 2D.*

I started painting late because I went to work after graduating from university. Now I know what I want. That's why I'm devoting myself to creative work. I think this is the process of getting to know me.

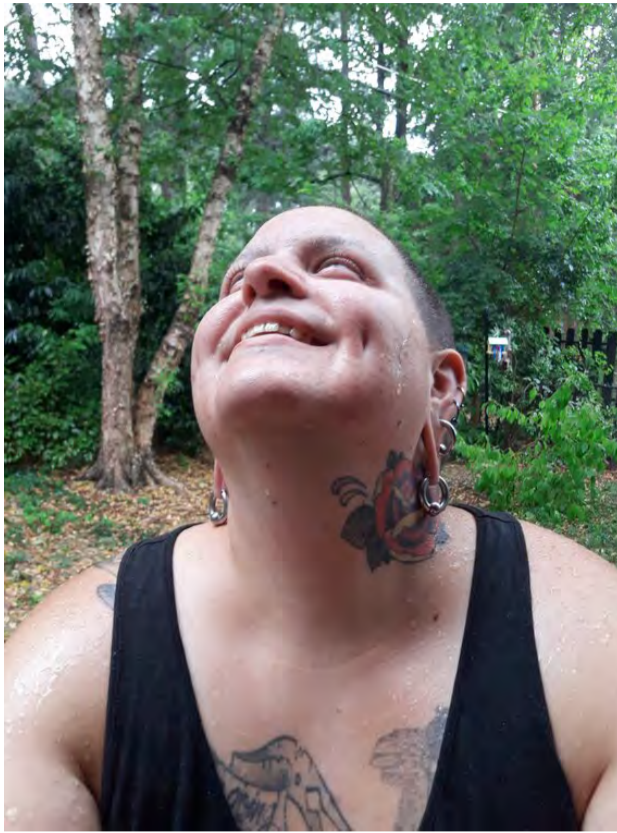
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[Artist Social Media](#)



*Euphoria, 2020*  
10 x 8 in  
Digital Self Portrait

## TAYLOR LANCASTER

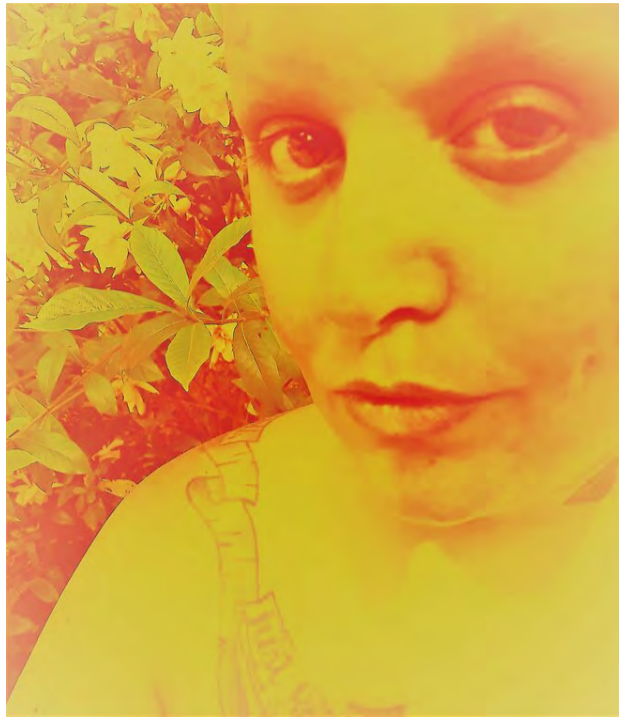
Chapel Hill, NC, United States

### ARTIST STATEMENT

*An image of myself in the rain (usually a source of anxiety) being overjoyed that I have connected with my gender on a deeper level.*

Both of my pictures are part of a larger series I have been working on to better understand my gender and connect it to this body that I call home.

My name is Taylor Lancaster. I have Schizoaffective Disorder and I identify as Nonbinary/Genderfluid. I use my art as a way to better understand my illness, my gender, and how I relate to the world around me. I'm always looking to discover new things.



*Secrets, 2020*  
12 x 10 in  
Digital Self Portrait

## TAYLOR LANCASTER

Chapel Hill, NC, United States

### ARTIST STATEMENT

*Me hinting to myself that there is more below the surface of my body/gender that I have not yet discovered.*

Both of my pictures are part of a larger series I have been working on to better understand my gender and connect it to this body that I call home.

My name is Taylor Lancaster. I have Schizoaffective Disorder and I identify as Nonbinary/Genderfluid. I use my art as a way to better understand my illness, my gender, and how I relate to the world around me. I'm always looking to discover new things.



*KIT Hub In Progress, 2021*  
16 x 32 cm  
Slam Poetry

[View the Video](#)

## JEANNE IRAKOZE

Carama, Bujumbura, Burundi

### ARTIST STATEMENT

*It is a slam for advocacy for the youth, the young people of KIT Hub in particular since I give them testimonies of their competence, but in general it is to plead for the competent young people.*

My name is Jeanne Irakoze, I am a Burundian, born June 1, 1995 in Burundi.

I am studying in Computer Engineering. Soon I will have my Baccalaureate diploma. I volunteer in the KIT Hub association and I am in charge of Visibility, Partnership and Fund Mobilization. I have benefited from training with UNFPA Burundi, often under the support of Netherland. I did the two-month online training with YALI Dakar on Civic Leadership. I left Alumni session 12. I just finished the seminars with Ubuntu United Nations representing Burundi.





*ENOUGH!*  
16 x 32 cm  
Slam Poetry

Please view the video in the exhibition.

## JEANNE IRAKOZE

Carama, Bujumbura, Burundi

### ARTIST STATEMENT

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*Melifluo*, 2015  
16 x 32 cm  
Cymatics and corrosion of copper

[View the Video](#)

## LEONARDO BLANC

Argentina

### ARTIST STATEMENT

*Metallurgical Cymatical Cardiology*

Master in Social Anthropology, (2014)

Licensed in the Sciences of Physical Activity and Sports (2010)

Physical Education Professor (2007)

Mechanical Aircraft Technician (ENET N° 7)

[Artist Website](#)



*Starry Night, 2021*  
20 x 20 in  
Mixed Media on Canvas

## ANNA PONOMARENKO

Kyiv, Ukraine

### ARTIST STATEMENT

*Once I dreamed that I was a bird and fly freely in the sky. The painting is about our hidden dreams, about other undiscovered lands and about freedom. Where do you travel in a dream and who are you?*

My name is Anna Ponomarenko, I was born and live in Kyiv, Ukraine. From childhood, I was filled with a love of art and in 2002, an art school appeared in my life. In 2005 I attended courses in the National Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture, Kyiv. From 2008 till 2020 I worked as Freelance Web And Graphic designer. This experience taught me to push back the usual borders and try something new. Since 2017 I started using oil, acrylic and mixing them with other materials, this led me to create my own style. Since 2021 I completely immersed myself in artistic direction.

Currently, I'm working with two collections and my main inspiration is the sea, sky, seagull birds. In the first series, the seagulls travel on the sky-sea canvases immerse the viewer in reflections on the eternal questions of life. In the second - through meditative seascapes, I'm working with the mental health theme.

Some of my paintings already found their home in the USA, Canada, United Kingdom, Portugal, Germany, Korea, Australia, and Ukraine.

[Artist Website](#)



*Beyond the Borders, 2021*  
28 x 28 in  
Mixed Media on Canvas

## ANNA PONOMARENKO

Kyiv, Ukraine

### ARTIST STATEMENT

*The human soul is represented as a bird. The painting shows that each of us builds borders in our minds. Sometimes we do not believe in our strength or try to hide behind borders from inner fears. It takes courage to leave the familiar and open up to the new.*

My name is Anna Ponomarenko, I was born and live in Kyiv, Ukraine. From childhood, I was filled with a love of art and in 2002, an art school appeared in my life. In 2005 I attended courses in the National Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture, Kyiv. From 2008 till 2020 I worked as Freelance Web And Graphic designer. This experience taught me to push back the usual borders and try something new. Since 2017 I started using oil, acrylic and mixing them with other materials, this led me to create my own style. Since 2021 I completely immersed myself in artistic direction.

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[Artist Website](#)





*Yellow Portrait, 2021*  
12 x 10 in  
Oil on Canvas

## R. DRADA

Berlin, Germany

### ARTIST STATEMENT

*Closeup of a woman with yellow light around her.*

\*R. Drada's images are about the other side of power- those run over by power, and the seedy viciousness and weird humanity that we give to power and money. Figures contort themselves in misery. Women look up with eyes broken up by paranoia at the viewer, or look entrancingly at us, though they are fully covered in soot. Resentment, paranoia, anger radiate the atmosphere around her figures or overtake the landscape. R. Drada's violent exuberance is formulated by a vocabulary practiced by those regularly ignored. These images are electrified by the colors of figures and even landscapes that do not want to comply. Colors are selected not for their playfulness, but follow the rule of the jungle- the brighter the colors, the more poisonous. Daring, dragged paint signifies the refusal to comply and suggest the exasperation at being required to comply or contort oneself into tortuous forms. R. Drada brings the viewer to look at the effects of the nonsensical being aggressively and silently imposed on women.

[Artist Website](#)



*Woman Before a Mirror, 2021*  
12 x 9 in  
Oil on Canvas

## R. DRADA

Berlin, Germany

### ARTIST STATEMENT

*A pale woman looks at her reflection in a mirror, red and blue shapes surround her.*

R. Drada's images are about the other side of power- those run over by power, and the seedy viciousness and weird humanity that we give to power and money. Figures contort themselves in misery. Women look up with eyes broken up by paranoia at the viewer, or look entrancingly at us, though they are fully covered in soot. Resentment, paranoia, anger radiate the atmosphere around her figures or overtake the landscape. R. Drada's violent exuberance is formulated by a vocabulary practiced by those regularly ignored. These images are electrified by the colors of figures and even landscapes that do not want to comply. Colors are selected not for their playfulness, but follow the rule of the jungle- the brighter the colors, the more poisonous. Daring, dragged paint signifies the refusal to comply and suggest the exasperation at being required to comply or contort oneself into tortuous forms. R. Drada brings the viewer to look at the effects of the nonsensical being aggressively and silently imposed on women.

[Artist Website](#)



*The Creation Of Adam and Eve, 2014*  
48 x 25 in  
Oil on Canvas

## ARIEL CHAVARRO AVILA

London, United Kingdom

### ARTIST STATEMENT

*Love is the most powerful thing ever -- the connection between two beings who care after each other. No matter adversities or handicaps, they are still together. This is a Cubist Oil painting.*

I am an environmental contemporary minimalist artist working in the medium of painting particularly with Oil and Watercolour. My love for nature, colour, texture and art began as a little child.

[Artist Website](#)



*blood cell reception, 2021*  
9 x 12 in  
Watercolor and Ink on Paper

## SAMIR KNEGO

Chapel Hill and Hillsborough, NC, United States

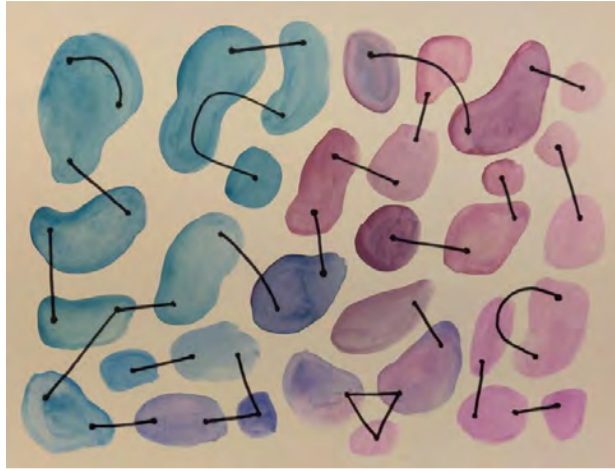
### ARTIST STATEMENT

*Undulating shapes in green watercolor accentuated by black ink lines that vaguely resemble blood cells. There is no heart directly portrayed in the piece, but it is implied as the source of the blood!*

Samir Knego is a multidisciplinary artist. Much of his work plays with the contrast between blobby, colorful shapes and precise black ink lines that evoke circuitry or topographic maps. While not naturalist art in the traditional sense, his work is heavily inspired by nature and natural science. Samir lives in North Carolina with a bright green wheelchair and a little black dog and was LEVEL's Spring 2021 Local Artist-In-Residence. When he's not making art, he works in a library and listens to lots of heavy metal.

[Artist Social Media](#)





*untitled connections, 2021*  
9 x 12 in  
Watercolor and Ink on Paper

## SAMIR KNEGO

Chapel Hill and Hillsborough, NC, United States

### ARTIST STATEMENT

*Cool-colored watercolor blobs (some of them somewhat heart-shaped) connected by black ink lines that evoke circuitry.*

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[Artist Social Media](#)



*Wild Heart, 2021*  
12 x 12 in  
Acrylic on Canvas

## LIZ GOLD

Maine, United States

### ARTIST STATEMENT

Liz Gold is an artist and writer living in southern Maine. While taking psilocybin (magic mushrooms) to treat depression, Liz discovered her true calling - to make beautiful things and put them out into the world to inspire others to do the same. She heard messages from spirit to start painting, had a vision of herself painting at an easel in her garage and as a result, picked up a paintbrush in April 2021. Her mixed media abstract paintings are all intuitive, drawing together feelings of nostalgia, emotion, movement and transformation.

[Artist Social Media](#)



*Wild Heart, 2021*  
24 x 30 in  
Acrylic on Canvas

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[Artist Social Media](#)



*Tale of a Kingdom, 2016*  
54 x 72 in  
Acrylic on Canvas

## SOURAJATA KUMAR SAHA

India

### ARTIST STATEMENT

My works are theatrical and fathomless presentation of dynamism although I do not believe in any ism or intentionally paint in that so. But it portrays my style of work in this manner only.

The colours in my work are very vibrant and the form I select are very masculine which is the positive energy source for the manifestation. The subject I take is having a mystical and classical memories and stature.

Consciously, I have never painted sorrows as I do believe it dividends nothing in return but only a heavy mind. In my very recent works, the mysticism and the wholesomeness has come consciously or unconsciously.

In many of my works, a theatrical spot light has been used on multiple objects from multiple sources of light for creating a mesmerizing visual scenic beauty. In some of my works, anti perspective presentation is used with bold black and grey lines. 3D painting is my invention. I have developed this medium since 2012. I use basically Paper Pulp and waste papers for making models and I paint on this.

This is very Eco friendly and less costly. All kinds of preservation, restoration, and relying are possible in this medium. I am able to create the curvature illusion here in this medium and in this style by using concave and convex surface.

[Artist Social Media](#)





*A Sunrise, 2021*  
60 x 54 in  
Acrylic on Canvas

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[Artist Social Media](#)



*Dancing with Forest, 2021*  
50 x 50 cm  
Acrylic Paint

MENG LU

Beijing, China

ARTIST STATEMENT

Beijing-born, self-taught artist Lu Meng.  
Acrylic Painting mainly in fantasy, animal and portrait subjects in  
expressionism and surrealism way.

I had been studying Chinese Traditional Painting since 4year old. Before I completed my master's degree in multimedia from the University of Stirling in the UK. I used to be a documentary director in China Center Television. Now, I am living and working in Beijing, as a painter, photographer, and promoter of therapeutic art. I mainly work acrylic painting, some of them are recommended by IANGRRY, ART Hole, Artweblist, Mvibe Magazine Artmagazineium, The Purposeful Mayonnaise Journal, and Loupeart. During 2018-2021, I exhibited at Holy Art in London, DAN CIC project in UK, Occhi online exhibition, and Post Wave Art Festival in Beijing. So far, some of my artworks are collected in China and in America.

[Artist Website](#)



*Intruding Into Flowers Among Lots Of Birds, 2021*

60 x 60 cm  
Acrylic Paint

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[Artist Website](#)



*La Mer Rouge, 2020*  
115 x 140 cm  
Acrylic on Canvas

## HOPE MOKDED

Paris, France

### ARTIST STATEMENT

Hope Mokded is a painter, videographer, engraver and feminist performer born in 1988 in Gabés in the south of Tunisia. She studied at the Higher Institute of Fine Arts of Tunis in engraving specialty and has continued her research at the University of Strasbourg where she focused her reflections on the issue of invisible violence, which could be defined as accepted societal violence and on how, as an artist and a woman, to create a trace of this violence in order to make it intelligible.

She lives and works in Paris. She has done personal and group exhibitions in recent years.

She recently worked with the European Commission in the Résonances 3 festival as an Expert Artist.

[Artist Social Media](#)





*La Dans Macabre, 2020*  
70 x 115 cm  
Acrylic on Canvas

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[Artist Social Media](#)



*Alone with Life, 2021*  
60 x 50 cm  
Oil on Canvas

## NATALIE RUSINOVA

Russia

### ARTIST STATEMENT

Expressionist artist from Russia. In her work, she pays special attention to the versatility of color, contrast and bright accents. She draws colorful landscapes depicting emotions and impressions.

Participant in international competitions and exhibitions.

Her goal is to create convention-free art, forcing the viewer's imagination to work towards the essence of the phenomenon represented in the picture. The viewer is to be not an ordinary observer, but a participant in the action.

Natalie is inspired by natural phenomena and having guided through the prism of her imagination, captures them on canvas with the help of oil paints, endowing with unreal, magical properties.

[Artist Social Media](#)



*Prophecies, 2021*  
40 x 60 cm  
Oil on Canvas

## NATALIE RUSINOVA

Russia

### ARTIST STATEMENT

*Blinding sun account and coal gloom. Overflows of colors and moods. Serenity. Inspirational radiance. Hope. Anxiety. A variety of feelings and sensations.*

*You can observe different impressions and emotions in each part of the picture. From the tranquility of the pre-dawn clouds in the upper left corner down to the expressive sunset flourishing below. From cheerful, bright colors to alarming gloomy signs. Interweaving of meanings and ideas.*

*Take a closer look.. What do you see and feel?*

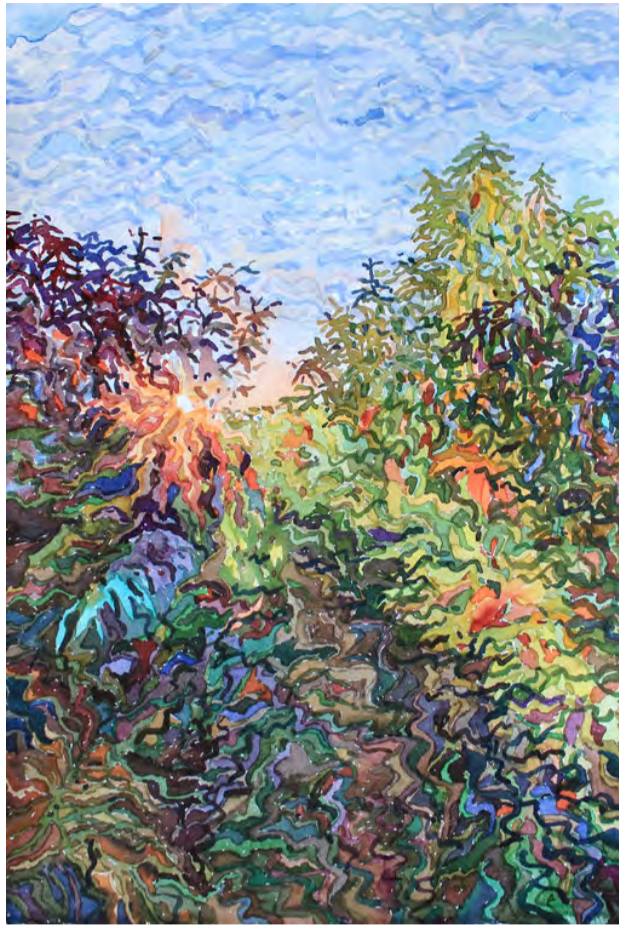
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[Artist Social Media](#)



*Secret Path in the Garden, 2021*

57 x 38 cm

Watercolor

## TANBELIA

Rivne City, Ukraine

### ARTIST STATEMENT

*One day I was cycling in my village. I wanted to collect some plants to try to make a natural pigment. I drove through the garden and found myself in an apple orchard. There was this secret path. I did not expect the setting sun to be the perfect place to create this composition -- it was so beautiful. It was early autumn, the period of harvesting elderberries.*

Tanelia is a 23 year old artist and sculptor, born and based in Ukraine (1998). Her art is about nature in abstract forms. She raises issues of ecology and nature in her art. The goal is to encourage people to protect nature.

Tanelia feels the most connection with nature and depicts the natural environment by her feelings in her vision.

She earned a Junior specialist of Restoration of Paintings in Lviv State College of Decorative and Applied Arts named I. Trush with honor, Bachelor of Graphic Design in Academy of Arts, and Master Degree of Graphic Design in Lutsk National Technical University.

She started to participate in international exhibitions in 2013 at the Zabrze festival in Poland. Tanelia's artworks have been shown in international art events in Luxembourg, Poland, Azerbaijan, and Slovenia. The artworks are in the private collections in Ukraine, Spain, France, Italy, USA, United Kingdom, Germany, and Russia.

[Artist Social Media](#)





*Forest Around the Pond, 2021*

38 x 57 cm

Watercolor

## TANBELIA

Rivne City, Ukraine

### ARTIST STATEMENT

*The pond called 'Novomilskyi pond' is located in my region. This is one of my favorite places to travel by bike. There is an alley with high trees, a field with cows on one side, a pond with fishermen on the other side, small houses, and pets. In autumn time, this place is extremely beautiful -- 1000 colors!*

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[Artist Social Media](#)





*Sprawled, 2021*  
From Plastic Doll Series, Doll House Collection  
12 x 8 in  
Digital Photography

## PERRIN MARIE

United States

### ARTIST STATEMENT

*Artists have a social responsibility to use their medium and platforms to provoke thought while doing no harm. Combining my social responsibility as an artist, human and environmentalist, I've created a photo project entitled "The Doll House Collection". The self-portrait collection is home to several series accomplished with fashion and photosets from recycled materials. Inspired by the collective blind eye of world leaders and community members regarding global warming and waste, it is my hope that the collection will provoke viewers to reconsider, reuse and recycle.*

A nomadic artist with humble beginnings and a grateful future, Perrin Marie has enjoyed success in her young career and is published globally as a model and photographer.

Just six months ago, Perrin had her first solo exhibition, Art & Body, and now excitedly awaits her second as a selected artist of Soliloquy International Art Festival in Barcelona, Spain. Following her Barcelonian adventure, the multi-talented artist will be traveling to Athens, Greece to complete her second residency.

[Artist Website](#)



*Evening Gown, 2021*  
From Plastic Doll Series, Doll House Collection  
12 x 8 in  
Digital Photography

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United States

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[Artist Website](#)



*Abundance 12, 2021*  
100 x 70 cm  
Acrylic on Paper

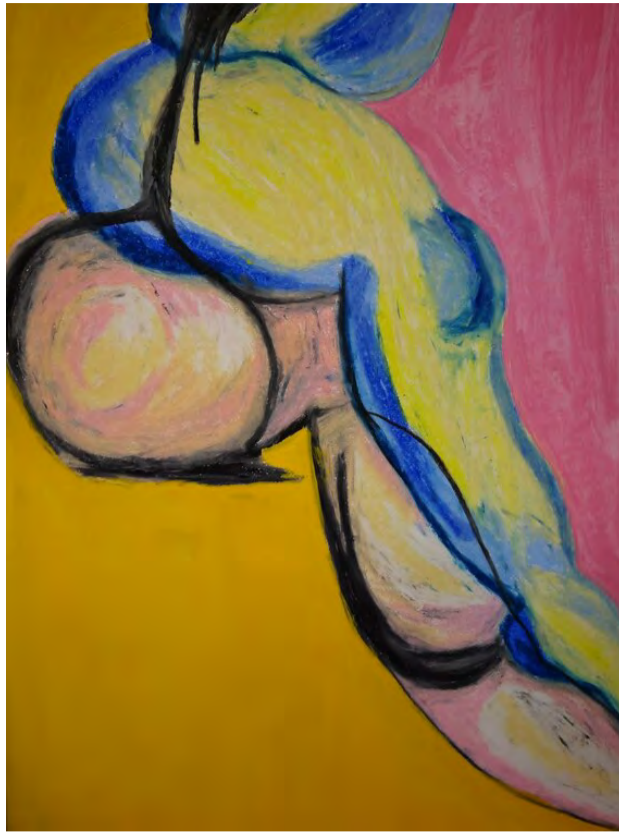
CLARA BOLLE

Netherlands

ARTIST STATEMENT

As a philosopher I view my writings and art as tools to do research. My main question in relation to thinking and making is: What does it mean to be your body instead of having a body? My aim is to think of bodies in a non-medical, anti-capitalist way and look for other ways to experience our bodies, for example a new anatomy of the body, the hand as a self portrait or the relation between nature and our body.

[Artist Website](#)



*Abundance 13, 2021*  
100 x 70 cm  
Acrylic on Paper

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[Artist Website](#)





*CobHIJA, 2021*  
60 x 40 cm  
Mixed Technique

## CHARY HILU

Argentina

### ARTIST STATEMENT

Artist and Teacher of visual arts from Argentina.  
Graduate National School of fine arts Prilidiano Pueyrredón (Argentina).  
Course study drawing and sculpture with the sculptor Juan Maffi.

Received prizes for sketching in competitions organized by the Luis Perloti Museum, San Isidro, Youth Salon, SAAP Adrogué Salon among others.

Participated in exposition at the Centro Cultural Borges, Argentine Society of Plastic Artists in Argentina and various mosaic expositions in Italy.

During the year 2021, participated in virtual exhibitions at the University of Ibagué (Colombia) in the Binational ARTwalk (Arizona) and published works in Mitoshi magazine art organization and MVIBE magazine (England), ARTHOLE MAGAZINE (England).

[Artist Website](#)





*Inside/Outside, 2021*  
60 x 35 cm  
Mixed Technique

## CHARY HILU

Argentina

### ARTIST STATEMENT

Artist and Teacher of visual arts from Argentina.  
Graduate National School of fine arts Prilidiano Pueyrredón (Argentina).  
Course study drawing and sculpture with the sculptor Juan Maffi.

Received prizes for sketching in competitions organized by the Luis Perloti Museum, San Isidro, Youth Salon, SAAP Adrogué Salon among others.

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[Artist Website](#)



*Free, 2020*  
7 x 7 in  
Etching

## LILY WIELEBA

Durham, NC, United States

### ARTIST STATEMENT

My art tells the stories of the people, places and times in my life that I love and that define me. I use printmaking as a way to hold on to memories and people and places I can no longer tangibly hold or experience. Sometimes this means taking a memory and including every little detail I can remember from it, dragging in elements to help emphasize the importance of the moment. Sometimes it means appreciating the simplicity and peacefulness of it. In both cases I am able to sit and feel fully absorbed in that moment, captured in the sweet feeling of reminiscence.

Etching came into my life the same time that my close friend Sarah left it. The possibility of Sarah's death was always on my mind. There was always hope that Sarah would overcome the years of abuse she had endured and that she'd find a way to exist without the aid of drugs, but subconsciously I think I knew the end was coming and that I needed an outlet for that. That's how etching came to be so vital to me. Sarah always evaded description and understanding, and if she can't be fully described in words, maybe art is the other way to help capture the enigma that is Sarah Fauver.

My process begins with pictures of the people, places, and moments I want to create an etching about. Sometimes I collage the images together, and sometimes I use a picture as my main reference, and add little details I can remember from other moments with that person or in that place as I draw into my plate.

My memories of these places and people feel like a fantasy to me. I try to emphasize that with all of the intricate details I add into my prints; every little detail has meaning to me in some way and I want the viewer to feel that as well. I want people to be able to get lost in my prints the same way I get lost in them while creating them, feeling surrounded by undying memories.

[Artist Website](#)



*Optimistic in West Virginia, 2020*  
7 x 11 in  
Etching

## LILY WIELEBA

Durham, NC, United States

### ARTIST STATEMENT

*My close friend Sarah Fauver passed away in 2019. A year or so before her death, she took a trip to West Virginia and on that trip requested that if anything happen to her, that her ashes be spread there. Sarah was always looking for a sanctuary and found it at this cabin in West Virginia. Almost two years later, I was at Sarah's sanctuary in West Virginia saying goodbye to her. On the way down from the mountain I took a picture of this house that I know Sarah would have noticed. In my print I combine the past and present, with a picture taken of Sarah when she was in West Virginia and with the picture I took in the same place of the house. I am able to blend life and death together with this print and feel connected to my friend once again.*

My art tells the stories of the people, places and times in my life that I love and that define me. I use printmaking as a way to hold on to memories and people and places I can no longer tangibly hold or experience. Sometimes this means taking a memory and including every little detail I can remember from it, dragging in elements to help emphasize the importance of the moment. Sometimes it means appreciating the simplicity and peacefulness of it. In both cases I am able to sit and feel fully absorbed in that moment, captured in the sweet feeling of reminiscence.

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