



Annual Exhibition Debuts Work of 43 Emerging Artists From the California College of the Arts Graduate Program in Fine Arts

**On View at Minnesota Street Project in Two Parts:
March 28-April 7 & April 11-21**

Free and Open to the Public



Graphic designed by Zachary Gibson and Helen Ip.

San Francisco, CA—March 7, 2018—This spring, 43 emerging artists from CCA's Graduate Program in Fine Arts will debut their work in a two-part exhibition at Minnesota Street Project.

Organized as part of the CCA curriculum by a team of faculty that includes Glen Helfand, Jackie Im, Ranu Mukherjee, and Astria Suparak, the annual MFA Thesis Exhibition culminates the graduate students' two years of work within the program and marks their transition to the public stage in a professional gallery setting. The exhibition is free and open to the public and features two Saturday opening reception events on March 31 and April 14, 3-6pm.

“This year marks the first time we are presenting the entire cycle of MFA thesis exhibitions at one location: Minnesota Street Project (MSP), a Bay Area organization that is quickly becoming an international platform for artists today,” says Fine Arts Associate Professor Glen Helfand. “It is an invaluable opportunity for our students to showcase their work to the public, and is likewise an ideal opportunity for the Bay Area community to see the work of an exciting group of emerging new talents.”

Students featured within the exhibition hail from across the country as well as from across the globe, including China, Iran, Brazil, Turkey, Spain, South Korea, Taiwan, and more. Their work includes a wide range of genres from textiles to painting, sculpture and installation, as well as photography, glass, works on paper, social practice, and more.

The works bristle with contemporary themes, and with aesthetics that resonate in the current moment. For example, the insidious effects of social media on the psyche and on politics are explored in numerous works, as are elements of identity, health, mortality, and belief. The works utilize adventurous aesthetics and unique perspectives and media to provide and instigate social commentary.

The exhibition is divided into two parts to allow greater appreciation of individual student work. In addition, it is organized with the support of eight major regional curators. This spring, curators will include: Jamillah James (LA ICA), Eungie Joo (SFMOMA), Corey Keller (SFMOMA), Nancy Lim (SFMOMA), Aimee LeDuc, Claudia Schmuckli (Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco), Lucia Sanroman (YBCA), and Frank Smigiel (SFMOMA).

Past students of the Graduate Program in Fine Arts include [Toyin Ojih Odutolo](#), whose recent solo show at the Whitney Museum of American Art has garnered [critical acclaim](#); [Zarouhie Abdalian](#) and [Liam Everett](#), represented by Altman Siegel Gallery; [Elisheva Biernoff](#), represented by Fraenkel Gallery; and [Woody De Othello](#), who graduated from the program just last year and is represented by Jessica Silverman Gallery.

The opening of the MFA Thesis Exhibition at Minnesota Street project comes as CCA’s MFA Fine Arts program is strengthening its relationships with San Francisco’s Dogpatch neighborhood -- the heart of one of the most vibrant contemporary art communities in the city. For five years, beginning in September 2018, studios for the students in the Graduate in Fine Arts program will be moving to the American Industrial Center, just a few blocks away from MSP.

MFA THESIS EXHIBITION

Minnesota Street Project (1275 Minnesota Street, San Francisco, 94107)

Free and open to the public

Part 1

March 28-April 7, 2018

Opening reception: Saturday, March 31, 2018, from 3-6pm

On view: Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-5pm

Artists featured: Tania Balan-Gaubert, Emily Budd, Troy Lamarr Chew II, Flavia D'Urso, Kira Dominguez Hultgren, Monique Eckelmann, Laurence Elias, Laura Figa, Charlotte Goff, Fa He, Christopher Marin, Nkiruka Oparah, Gianna Paniagua, Josef Peters, Meganne Rosen, Samantha Rosenwald, Ana Saygi, Kaly Scheller-Barrett, Hyeyoon Song, Jamie Turner, Wenjia Wang, Qian Zhao

Part 2

April 11-21, 2018

Opening reception: Saturday, April 14, 2018 from 3-6pm

On view: Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-5pm

Artists featured: Jennifer Brandel, Robert Cappelli, Pu Sung Cha, Jake Couri, Beatriz Escobar, Chloe Ghillani, Weiyi Guo, Camilla Hammer, Keyvan Heydari Shovir, Baihan Jiang, Massiel Mafes, Alicia McDaniel, Holly McHugh, William McQuail, Amanda Rush, Gabriela Sans, Keith Secola, T2R/Laura Gillmore, Yu Wen, Wang, Zhengdong Ye, Ruxue Zhang

About the California College of the Arts Graduate Program in Fine Arts

The Graduate Program in Fine Arts at CCA is a rigorous interdisciplinary program designed to foster critical thinking, self-awareness, and ambitious artistic production in a supportive studio environment.

The program prepares students for a long-term engagement with a contemporary arts practice through a combination of mentoring, coursework, and co-curricular opportunities that are deeply engaged in contemporary issues and in dialogue with the professional art world.

The curriculum is designed to generate critical dialogue with faculty and visiting artists, and culminates in a final exhibition of work and a written thesis. Students have the opportunity to work with a professional curator to develop and install a significant public exhibition.

The program accepts students through an interdisciplinary admissions process that looks for both conceptual ambition and formal excellence.

About Minnesota Street Project

Located in San Francisco's historic Dogpatch district, Minnesota Street Project offers economically sustainable spaces for art galleries, artists, and related nonprofits. Inhabiting three warehouses, the project seeks to retain and strengthen San Francisco's contemporary art community in the short term, while developing an internationally recognized arts destination in the long term.

Founded by entrepreneurs and collectors Deborah and Andy Rappaport, Minnesota Street Project was inspired by the couple's belief that philanthropic support for the arts today requires an alternate model—one suited to the innovative nature of Silicon Valley and the Bay Area region as a whole.

Their vision of a dynamic, self-sustaining enterprise that shares its economic success with arts businesses and professionals aims to encourage heightened support for the arts from newcomer and established patrons alike.

About California College of the Arts

Founded in 1907, California College of the Arts (CCA) educates students to shape culture and society through the practice and critical study of art, architecture, design, and writing. Benefitting from its San Francisco Bay Area location, the college prepares students for lifelong creative work by cultivating innovation, community engagement, and social and environmental responsibility.

CCA offers a rich curriculum of 22 undergraduate and 11 graduate programs in art, design, architecture, and writing taught by a faculty of expert practitioners, and attracts promising students from across the United States and from 55 countries around the world. Graduates are highly sought-after by companies such as Pixar/Disney, Apple, Intel, Facebook, Gensler, Google, IDEO, Autodesk, Mattel, and Nike, and many have launched their own successful businesses.

CCA is creating a new, expanded college campus at its current site in San Francisco that will open during the 2021–2022 academic year. Spearheaded by Studio Gang architects, the new campus design will be a model of [sustainable construction and practice](#); will unite the college's programs in art, crafts, design, architecture, and writing in one location to create new adjacencies and interactions; and will provide [more student housing](#) than ever before.

For more information, visit cca.edu

MEDIA CONTACT

EMILY VIEMEISTER Sr. Communications Manager

emilyv@cca.edu | [o 415.703.9545](tel:415.703.9545)



1111 Eighth St. | San Francisco, CA | 94107