

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Playing with Scale
an exhibition at PLAySPACE Gallery opening February 27, 2020

The 2021 cohort of CCA's Curatorial Practice MA program is delighted to present a year of exhibitions and programming in the PLAySPACE Gallery exploring the concept of scale, featuring work across a variety of media by talented emerging artists, including new commissions.

PLAySPACE Gallery

Located in CCA's Hubbell Street Galleries
161 Hubbell Street
San Francisco, CA

Exhibition dates: February 27 - April 24, 2020

Gallery hours: Thursdays & Fridays, 3:30-7:30pm

Preview Event: February 13, 5:30pm-7:30pm *coinciding with the Barclay Simpson Award Exhibition*

Opening Reception: February 27, 5:30-7:30pm

Curatorial statement: When we think about an artwork's scale, we consider it in relation to ourselves, as viewers, and the space in which it is exhibited – its walls and ceiling height, or lack thereof. Certain artforms dictate a work's size, such as the space of a printed publication or the object or surface on which it's applied. But against what system of measurements do we consider paintings, collages, ceramics, and textiles to be “big” or “small”? What scale are we using when we decide a work is precious but not serious? In this exhibition we consider the ways in which size and scale impact how we read an artwork, and how these properties can help or hinder an artist's goals. Some of these artists consistently work on a small scale to create highly detailed works that encourage viewers to look twice, commenting on how we experience the world based on our personal identities and lived histories. Other artists seen here have employed their signature style and medium to deliberately create something at a smaller scale than they typically work. Seen together, this group of works draws attention to what expectations visitors carry into an art gallery, and how these expectations inform both viewing experience and artists' creative decisions. These works also invite viewers to consider how we subconsciously use systems and scales to measure the success of an artwork, especially in an age when we frequently encounter artwork through the lens of a computer or smartphone, incapable of truly gauging our size in relation to it.

Featured Artists: Yan Wen Cheng, Haley Gewandter, Katie Hector, Hannah Lee, Katie Levinson, Courtney Odell (CCA MFA '20), Ahran Park, Emmaline Payette, John Robert Roy (CCA MFA '20), Arezu Salamzadeh, Ebtihal Shedid (CCA MFA '21), Gerald Wiggins

This exhibition is co-curated by Leandra Burnett & Emily Markert and co-organized by Katherine Hamilton & Shaelyn Hanes, with original graphic designs by Youyou Ma.

Spring Programming at PLAYSPACE

Lost Hour Artist's Talk

Friday, March 6, 3:30-7:30pm

A panel of selected artists gather before daylight savings time to discuss what is lost, what is invisible, unseeable, what is taken as opposed to given.

Pre-Midterm Hex Party

Friday, March 13, 3:30-7:30

Discussion on the subject of luck, taboo, the occult, and the ways modern mysticism is reframing historic narratives and present perceptions of bad luck times. Make your own charm for manifesting or releasing, whatever you need.

Etymology Talk

Friday April 3, 3:30-7:30

Building off of the etymological origins of the word "curator" as care, concern, responsibility, and "publish" and public.

Tax Day Performance

Wednesday, April 15

Details to be announced

Closing Reception and Book Club

Weekend of April 24

A collating party for the release of Playspace Pamphlet #1. A communal effort of many voices and many hands.

About PLAYSPACE 2020: *Playing with Scale I & II*

The word "scale" has many meanings: an elementary description of size; a tool used to measure weight or length; a set of rules for transformations; a rubric that is more complex than a straight line. Despite the term's refusal to be fixed to one meaning, always present is the comparison of one thing to another, implicating the two in a question of perfect balance. There is a malleable space that exists between these two compared points that forms a spectrum of relativity from which many meanings can emerge. The 2020 PLAYSPACE program occupies this space, exploring what happens when one considers or deliberately disrupts that space of equilibrium, calling into question rigid methods of comparison and the systems we use to judge ourselves and the world around us.