

2020 BIENNIAL

Exhibiting Artists



Jeffrey Ackerman | Morrill, ME

Jeffrey Ackerman creates a dream-like tableau in his work, imagining strange and fantastic spaces and landscapes, inspired by historical events, and then awakes exhilarated by this alternative universe. He invents characters and worlds, infusing them with the mundane or nightmarish.

jeffreyackermanstudio.com



Henry Austin | Portland, ME

"Rubbing my hands against closed eyes reveals a thousand blossoming dots. I wish my feet would leave the gravel and soar up like a smile but pressing harder just hurts my head. Falling asleep is the only way over the edge."

[@henryaustin](http://henryaustin)



Susan Beallor-Snyder | Southwest Harbor, ME + New York, NY

Beallor-Snyder's work is created from a combination of knots, clusters, and lines, navigating between turbulent islands and calmer spaces within. Her intuitive and highly-physical process reflects a personal narrative of emotional pain.

susanbeallorsnyder.com



Fanny Brodar | Kennebunkport, ME

Brodar's work is influenced by the purity and simplicity of childhood, books that she loved as a child, pop culture, and color psychology. She identifies as a "naive artist" who blends abstract expressionism and neo-pop.

fannybart.com



Anne Buckwalter | Portland, ME + Philadelphia, PA

Buckwalter's work explores female identity and the coexistence of contradictory elements. Inspired by the folk art of her Pennsylvania Dutch heritage, the paintings arrange disparate objects in mysterious rooms and ambiguous spaces.

annebuckwalter.com

2020 BIENNIAL

Taking place in the fall of even-numbered years, the CMCA Biennial is an open, statewide juried exhibition featuring work in all mediums produced in the past two years. A snapshot of Maine's vibrant contemporary art scene, the CMCA Biennial dates back to 1978 and is the longest-running juried competition in the state. This year's iteration includes work by 34 artists representing 17 communities across Maine.

In reviewing over 500 submissions received, Nina Johnson-Milewski remarked "this exhibition will reflect the importance of harnessing the creative spirit, particularly in times of disconnection, isolations, and confusion," with Kate McNamara adding "I am thrilled with our final selection of work, which reflects some of the hopefulness and re-imagining this particular and historic moment in time calls for."

Jurors | Nina Johnson-Milewski, Founder and Director of the Nina Johnson Gallery, Miami.
Kate McNamara, Visiting Critic at RISD and Creative Director of My HomeCourt.

Biennial Artists

Jeffrey Ackerman
Henry Austin
Susan Beallor-Snyder
Fanny Brodar
Anne Buckwalter
Penn Chan
Ben DeHaan
Brian Doody
Jenny McGee Dougherty
Norajean Ferris
Donna Festa
Sam Finkelstein

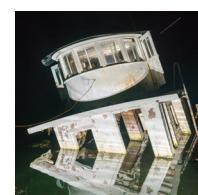
Kevin Ford
Elyse Noelani James
Meg Hahn
Breehan James
Gregory Jamie
Tom Jessen
Baxter Koziol
Mandy Lamb
Phil Lonergan
Hector Nevarez Magaña
Ashley Normal

Isabelle Maschal O'Donnell
Elijah Ober
Aaron Rosenblum
Nicholas J. Sevigney
Susan L. Smith
Maia Snow
Benjamin Spalding
Richard Van Buren
Jimmy Viera
Susan B Webster
Erin Woodbrey

Biennial Sponsor



CMCA
CENTER FOR MAINE CONTEMPORARY ART



Penn Chan | Portland, ME

Chan uses documentary style photography and mythology to capture a conflicted mindset wrought with the anxieties of being present in a failing landscape and the fantasy of starting over in an untouched world.

pennchan.com



Ben DeHaan | Portland, ME

DeHaan's work explores the body, identity, and image materiality. Inspired by the physical material components that construct images, his work uses experimental printing and photographic practices involving rearrangements and distortions, both by hand and machine.

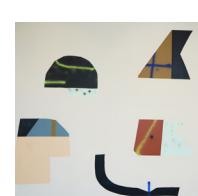
ben-dehaan.format.com



Brian Doody | Portland, ME

Doody's work explores grief, queer identity, and chosen family, informed by his rural-poor background and present working class status. The work serves as memorials to the earth, to childhood, to people. It presents both an invitation and a feeling of unease. There is something off; there is something behind the cloth.

briandoody.com



Jenny McGee Dougherty | South Portland, ME

Dougherty's work draws attention to subtle relics that exist in our collective landscape. Her practice of noticing informs a vocabulary and archive of patterns, colors, and shapes. She challenges her audience to seek the everyday beauty that is available to all who seek it.

jennymcgeed.com



Norajean Ferris | Portland, ME

Ferris' paintings focus on the present political landscape, showing the not-so-hidden side of America: racism, war, homelessness, religious intolerance, LGBTQ discrimination, and the challenges faced by immigrants

norajeanferris.com



Donna Festa | Bangor, ME

Many people made sourdough bread. Donna Festa bit her fingernails and obsessively made drawings of her home.

donnafesta.com



Ashley Normal | York, ME + Nashua, NH

Normal's work uses alteration, repetition, and color to draw attention to concepts already present in the zeitgeist: communication, identity, societal norms and taboos, privilege, class, whiteness, and all the grey areas in between.

ashleynormal.com



Sam Finkelstein | Rockland, ME

Finkelstein's work examines the human body as the link between the psychic states of ever-accelerating metropolitan centers and more time-expansive pastoral landscapes. Through material permutations of synthetic polymer clay, construction supplies, and raw earthen elements, the forms blend the animate and inanimate.

babymans.tumblr.com



Isabelle Maschal O'Donnell | Portland, ME

O'Donnell's work is influenced by traditional craft processes, the natural world, and repurposed textiles. She situates herself in a lineage of artists whose work deals with paintings intrinsic connection to textile and craft.

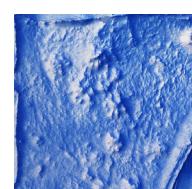
isabelleodonnell.com



Kevin Ford | Portland, ME + Norwalk, CT

Ford paints with an economical combination of delicate brushwork and loose airbrushing. The paintings are soft sfumato, but their smokiness isn't the dusky smoke from a Renaissance fireplace; it's sour apple Juul vape.

kevindfordstudio.com



Elijah Ober | South Portland, ME

Ober's work was created from the barren, post-industrial site that holds the Gardenship Residency. He is preserving evidence of a land that was once a cedar swamp, then violently turned into a landfill, and now is being reclaimed by scavengers.

elijahober.com



Elyse Noelani Grams | South Bristol, ME + Easthampton, MA

Gram is trying to understand a pot that she only remembers, revisiting the memory over and over again. She writes, "My pots are always women, just like me. I am a vessel building a vessel [...] it is ok to break. I will patch myself with gold, I will be myself again."

@lyseygirl



Aaron Rosenblum | Northport, ME + Louisville, KY

Rosenblum's work promotes active engagement with local and global soundscapes and media environments. He employs strategies based in minimalism and the assumptions that human perception adds inherent variation to even the most constant or repetitive stimulus.

aaronrosenblum.com



Meg Hahn | Portland, ME

Hahn paints forms not by precise measurement but with an exactness that is formally driven and produced intuitively. She gathers observations from her daily habits and romanticizes the subtleties found in their patterns, hues, and shapes.

meghahn.com



Nicholas J Sevigney | Wells, ME + Holderness, NH

Sevigney's work combines forms and textures from sea life, insects, sci-fi movies, and the trompe l'oeil of Yixing teaware juxtaposed against those of discarded coffee cup lips, exhaust vents, and dilapidated metal.

nicksevigney.com



Breehan James | Scarborough, ME

James' work is about place: remote places that manifest the essence and transformative power of the wilderness. The paintings record an immersion and focus found while disconnected from everyday habits in the isolated forests and authentic cabins of the Northern Midwest.

breehanjames.com



Susan L Smith | Dover-Foxcroft, ME

Smith's work was made while standing witness at the US/MX border and as a response to that experience. The work aims to bring attention to and humanize the immigration crisis and to memorialize the lives lost and altered during the search for asylum.

susansmithstudio.com



Gregory Jamie | Portland, ME

Jamie's paintings feature abstract and childlike creatures being punished by nature for wandering outside of their parameters, consumed by nature. He creates myths that aren't established and symbolism with no frame of reference, but his stories are vibrant fairy tales.

gregjamie.com



Maia Snow | Portland, ME + Austin, TX

Snow's work celebrates the soft and hard complexities of queer sexuality, gender, and the non-binary body by centering the subject of the figure, which gestures toward the body as an entity that is both marked by sex and a marker of sex.

maiasnow.com



Tom Jessen | Temple, ME

Jessen's work is grounded in the vernacular of everyday discarded objects that have a personal connection to his life and environment. He often employs chance operations and game theory as a means to keep the creative experience mysterious and engaging.

tomjessen.com



Benjamin Spalding | Portland, ME

Spalding uses the visual language of nightclubs and sport attire to create organic forms, exploring new methods of individual and social organization. He writes, "...it is through a modified relationship with nature that we can create new ways of perceiving ourselves, not as separate, but as part of the larger whole."

confounder.net



Baxter Koziol | Portland, ME

Koziol deconstructs used clothing to create new textiles, hybridizing functions, styles, and traditions of textiles. He builds narratives around objects that promise survival, versatility, and opulence.

baxterkoziol.com



Richard Van Buren | Perry, ME

Van Buren tests material constraints and limitations in an effort to question the definition and direction of sculpture. He embeds polyester biomorphs with disparate materials in order to present forms that reflect our material-driven culture.

richardvanburenart.com



Mandy Lamb | Norridgewock, ME

Lamb writes, "There is a moment before each image where they look at me, sometimes with hostility, sometimes with fear. Then they surrender to flight and are at their most beautiful." For six years, she's worked on a fishing boat in Alaska.

mlamb.org



Jimmy Viera | South Portland, ME

Viera is interested in gesture and object and the spatial relationship they share. His sketchbook is a library of collected gestures, which he combines like a collector adding items to the shelf.

jimmyviera.com



Phil Lonergan | Campton, NH + Portland, ME

For years, Lonergan identified as a craftsman. Now, he's making the transition from saw to software, making this work a playful exploration of a sculptor's place in a changing world.

philllonergan.com



Susan B Webster | Deer Isle, ME

Webster envisioned this work mid-pandemic, acknowledging that the world was both heavy with despair and yet, also filled with love and hope. She strove to create a sanctuary, a space that might provide comfort and solace.

susanwebster.net



Hector Nevarez Magaña | Portland, ME

Magaña writes, "i fall in love every change i get. a sick masochistic tendency, it offers me the world -all of it- including its own death. yes, especially its own death. [...] these photographs were made with love in my eyes, and hopelessness in my cut-up, trembling arms."

hectornevarez.com



Erin Woodbrey | Sebago Lake, ME + Orleans, MA

Woodbrey's work illuminates the urgency of preserving the natural world by deciphering the global environmental crisis as seen through objects and landscapes.

erinwoodbrey.com