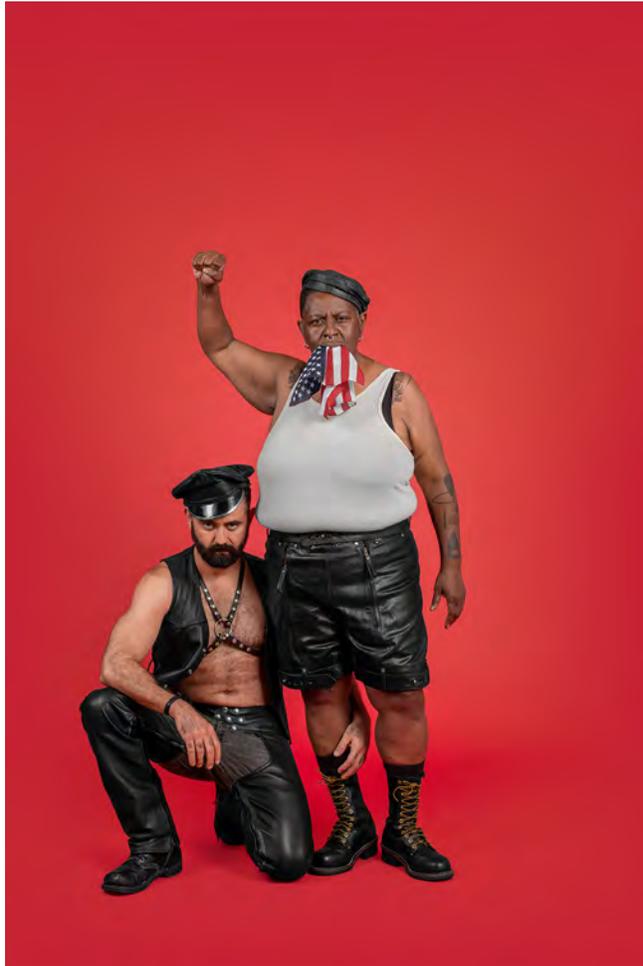


For Immediate Release - September 2019

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Jamil Hellu, "When people think of America, they don't think of someone who looks like me," voiced Crystal Mason before putting the flag in her mouth, 2019. Photograph. Courtesy of the Artist.

The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) opens three new exhibitions on November 17th.

Sense of Self

Main Gallery

November 9 – March 15, 2020

Clive McCarthy: Electric Paintings

Focus Gallery

November 16 – March 22, 2020

Stas Orlovski: Chimera

Cardinale Project Room

November 16 – March 22, 2020

SAN JOSE, CA – November, 2019 – The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) will open the Fall season with three new exhibitions: ***Sense of Self***, ***Clive McCarthy: Electric Paintings***, and ***Stas Orlovski: Chimera***. ***Sense of Self***, a group exhibition, emphasizes photographic portraiture and its enduring power to tell stories, break down barriers, and subvert assumptions. Artists include Marcela Pardo Ariza, Tammy Rae Carland, Erica Deeman, Jamil Hellu, and Stephanie Syjuco. Using photographs and custom-built computer programs, ***Clive McCarthy*** will create an immersive installation with continuously shifting painterly images. ***Stas Orlovski: Chimera*** consists of dream-like, multi-media animated projections comprised of collages, stencils, and paintings.

The Opening Reception for all exhibitions is Sunday, November 17, 2-4PM.

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Sense of Self

Main Gallery

November 9 – March 15, 2020



Erica Deeman, *Gregory*, 2016. Archival pigment print. Courtesy of the Artist and Anthony Meier Fine Arts, San Francisco, CA.

The photograph can be a tool of empowerment used to reposition the complicated histories of portraiture. Presenting subjects who have been historically excluded and misrepresented reclaims their identities and reinserts them into art discourse. *Sense of Self* explores identity and selfhood through the photographs of **Marcela Pardo Ariza, Tammy Rae Carland, Erica Deeman, Jamil Hellu, and Stephanie Syjuco**. Each artist explores deep concepts around identity - including race, queer identity, gender expression, and cultural lineage. *Sense of Self* celebrates the power of contemporary photographic portraiture to spark empathy, break down barriers, and subvert assumptions.

Jamil Hellu invites members of the LGBTQ+ community to collaborate on portraits that explore queer histories and cultural lineage. Hellu considers the ways his portraits “can express an evolving definition of pride and empowerment while resisting the growing intolerance in our political times.” The series *On Becoming* presents Tammy Rae Carland as both her father and mother in reimagined family photos, reflecting on the complexities of what we inherit from our parents, and how family photos can present a false constructed narrative. In Carland’s series *Lesbian Beds*, the imprints of bodies on mattresses act as portraits, shedding light on the private domestic realm of non-heteronormative women’s sexuality.

Stephanie Syjuco’s portraits comment on Western constructions of the “exotic” and the problematic history of ethnography. Her series *Applicant Photos (Migrants)* also discusses the loss of individuality in the way migrants are depicted as a faceless, anonymous mass. Erica Deeman’s *Brown* series will be presented in an immersive installation that questions insidious



Stephanie Syjuco, *Applicant Photos (Migrants) #3*, 2017. Pigmented inkjet print with archival framing and Optium UV filtering acrylic. Courtesy of the Artist and Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco, CA.

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assumptions about race, and how we read faces based on our own visual expectations and historic portrayals.

Marcela Pardo Ariza has created a new series for *Sense of Self* as an extension of her 2018 series *Kin*. Pardo Ariza describes kin in her statement: "It's anti-geographical, it's non-topographical. / It's intersectional, intergenerational, transnational." This series visualizes Pardo Ariza's connection to community, that feeling of belonging and recognition of ourselves in others; "kin is what keeps us here."

Sense of Self is supported by the Fleishhacker Foundation and SVCcreates, in partnership with the County of Santa Clara.

Clive McCarthy: Electric Paintings

Focus Gallery

November 16 – March 22, 2020



Clive McCarthy, *Beth Boxed*, July 2019. Projection. Courtesy of the Artist.

Using small, custom-built computer systems, artist and engineer Clive McCarthy produces painterly images rendered on screens and projectors. *Clive McCarthy: Electric Paintings* is an immersive installation of continuously shifting painterly images.

The images, wrought with painterly gestures like brush strokes and thick dabs of color, are derived from photographic base images which are then "painted" in random sequences in his program.

Visitors will be able to walk through these large projected "paintings" which move and rework themselves into innumerable moving images continuously over time. With every visit to McCarthy's exhibition, visitors will see a new iteration of a painting.

McCarthy received his B.Sc. in Electronics from University of Salford, England and his MFA in New Genres from San Francisco Art Institute. McCarthy spent 17 years as Chief Engineer at the semiconductor maker Altera before earning his MFA at San Francisco State University in 1997. McCarthy has participated in numerous exhibitions in California and Canada.

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Clive McCarthy: *Electric Paintings* is part of the ongoing series of ICA Sandbox Projects. The distinctive Sandbox Projects encourage artists to experiment, take risks, and create immersive, site-specific installations that would not otherwise be realized. *Clive McCarthy: Electric Paintings* is ICA Sandbox Project 9.

Clive McCarthy: *Electric Paintings* is supported in part by members of the ICA's Director's Circle.

Stas Orlovski: *Chimera*

Cardinale Project Room

November 16 – March 22, 2020

Los Angeles-based artist Stas Orlovski fuses old world sensibilities and new age technology into a multi-media animated installation entitled *Chimera*.

Using a vocabulary of images, ideas, and motifs stemming from his life-long fascination with Soviet-era children's books, Japanese prints, and Dutch botanical illustration, Orlovski creates an animated projection comprised of collages, stencils, drawings, and paintings. Silhouettes of ghostly figures morph in and out of the shapeless frame while plant life grows around them, birds sing atop their shoulders, and quilt-like patterns dance in and out of their sepia-tinted wilderness. The result is a dreamlike installation that dances between animation, drawings, and shadow puppetry. The accompanying ghostly soundtrack of acoustic Victorian-era musical instruments by Steve Roden supports the work's potent themes of life, death, growth, and decay.



Stas Orlovski, *Chimera*, Pasadena Museum of California Art, September 14, 2014 - January 11, 2015. Charcoal, ink, Xerox transfer, collage and projected animation on wall. Sound by Steve Roden. Post-Production Beau Leduc. Photography ©Don Milici.

Orlovski was born in Kishinev, Moldova. He received a BFA from York University, a B.Ed from the University of Toronto, and an MFA from the University of Southern California. He has exhibited widely throughout the U.S. with solo exhibitions in Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, and the Bay Area. His work has been included in museums such as Los Angeles County

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Museum of Art, Ponomo College Museum of Art, Long Beach Museum of Art, and Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco. Orlovski is represented by Traywick Contemporary in Berkeley, CA.

Stas Orlovski: Chimera is part of the ongoing series of ICA Sandbox Projects. The distinctive Sandbox Projects encourage artists to experiment, take risks, and create immersive, site-specific installations that would not otherwise be realized. Stas Orlovski: Chimera is ICA Sandbox Project 10.

Stas Orlovski: Chimera is supported in part by the Members of the ICA.

Opening Reception

Sunday, November 17; 2-4PM

Members Preview from 1-2PM.

The reception is open and free to the public from 2-4PM.

Curator Tour with Christine Koppes

Friday, November 22; 12-1PM

Sense of Self Public Programs

To extend the discussion of LGBTQ+ identities in this exhibition, the ICA will partner with the LGBTQ Youth Space to present artist talks, informal discussions, and programs around topics of identity, representation, and empowerment.

Talking Art

Conversations, workshops, panel discussions and artist professional development programs. Open to the public. Free admission for ICA Members.

ICA Members: Free admission to select Talking Art events

Non Members: \$10

Students: Free

Sunday, March 15: Representation in Portraiture, 3-4PM

Jacqueline Francis will moderate a discussion with artists of *Sense of Self* artists on the importance of representing marginalized communities in their work and how portraiture may be used to challenge assumptions and stereotypes. Topics will include the history of ethnography, race in portraiture, and inclusion of LGBTQ+ communities in photography.

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Jacqueline Francis, Ph.D. is an art historian, curator, and author. She is the author of *Making Race: Modernism and "Racial Art" in America* and co-editor of *Romare Beardon: American Modernist*. She is Associate Professor and Chair of the Graduate Visual and Critical Studies Program at California College of the Arts in San Francisco.

ICA First Fridays

Each First Friday of the month the ICA presents an evening of thought provoking experimental art performances, events, and hands-on activities that encourage engagement with the Bay Area contemporary art community.

Friday, December 6, 2019: ICA Gives Back, 7-10PM

Friday, February 7, 2020: 7-10PM

Friday, March 6, 2020: Me Myself & I, 7-10PM

A celebration of identity and individuality! Join us for a zine workshop, portrait stations, and more. Co-hosted by the LGBTQ+ Youth Space.

Art After Dark

We stay open late every second Thursday of the month. Visit us for an evening of mingling, complimentary beverages, snacks, and music.

Art After Dark, 7-10PM on the following Thursdays:

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Thursday, January 9, 2020

Thursday, February 13, 2020

Thursday, March 12, 2020