

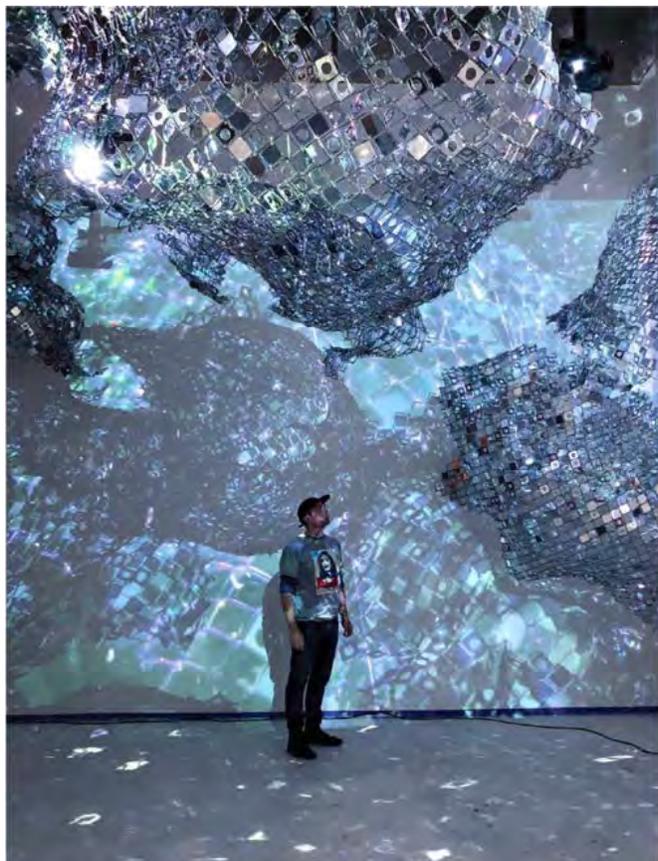
For Immediate Release – February 2020

Contact: Marielle Mervau

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ICA



Soo Sunny Park, *Photo-kinetic Grid*, 2018, Brazed chain link fence, acrylic tiles, video cameras, projectors, and light, dimensions variable. Courtesy of the Artist. Commissioned by North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC.

**The San Jose
Institute of
Contemporary Art
(ICA)** celebrates their
40th Anniversary with six
new exhibitions opening
April 5th

The **Opening Reception** for all exhibitions is Sunday, April 5th, 2-4PM. The press is invited to attend an **Artist's Talk** prior to the Opening Reception from 1-2pm.

Soo Sunny Park: Viewing Filter (Veil of Vision)

Focus Gallery

Personal Alchemy: Terri Friedman, Maria Paz, Muzae Sesay

Main Gallery

David Ellingsen: Weather Patterns

Cardinale Project Room

Chris Eckert: Art + Life

Windows

Jingjing Lin:

You Can Trust Me: A New Dawn For America

Off-Center Gallery

Profiles: Portraits of South Bay Creatives

Corridor Gallery

LigoranoReese: Truth Be Told

Lounge

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Soo Sunny Park: Viewing Filter (Veil of Vision)

Focus Gallery

April 4 – August 16, 2020



*Soo Sunny Park, Silver Linings, 2015, Stainless steel, tar paper, Mylar, artificial light, daylight. Courtesy of the Artist.
Photo credit: Dean Dixon.*

Soo Sunny Park explores light as a sculptural material. She reconfigures boundary materials – fencing, plastic, glass, sheetrock – to expand and explore the space between inside and outside, sculptural and drawing, vision and perception, objects and their shadows. As Park describes it, “Light is usually treated as a liminal being: something that mediates our visual awareness of the world, but not something that we see in and of itself. In my work, light is not just a means by which the form is seen, but part of what constitutes the work of art.”

For *Viewing Filter (Veil of Vision)*, Park will investigate visual perception through the use of reflective surfaces, grids, and variable light conditions. Her large-scale, immersive installation will be built out of retro-reflective paint and nylon netting, stretched into curtain-like forms. Layers of accumulated drawings, on different layers of the netting, will create a sense of amplified depth in a 3-dimensional floating space. Visitors will walk through the gallery and be able to interact with the space using their camera flashes and phone flashlights.

Born in Seoul, South Korea, Park received her BFA in Painting and Sculpture from Columbus College of Art & Design, Columbus, Ohio and a MFA in sculpture from Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Park is a recipient of the Joan Mitchell Foundation MFA

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Grant; Grand Prize winner of the 19th Annual Michigan Fine Arts Competition; The Helen Foster Barnett Prize, National Academy Museum, New York; Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture residency, Skowhegan, Maine; Cité Internationale des Arts studio residency, Paris, France, and the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center Arts & Literary Arts Residency, Bellagio, Italy. Soo Sunny Park lives and works in Hanover, New Hampshire where she is Associate Professor of Studio Art at Dartmouth College.

Soo Sunny Park: Viewing Filter (Veil of Vision) 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. *Soo Sunny Park: Viewing Filter (Veil of Vision)* is ICA Sandbox Project 11.

Soo Sunny Park: Viewing Filter (Veil of Vision) is supported in part by Applied Materials, Doris and Alan Burgess, and Wanda Kownacki.

Personal Alchemy: Terri Friedman, Maria Paz, Muzae Sesay

Main Gallery

March 28 – August 16, 2020



Alchemy, the ancient philosophy focused on the purification and transformation of materials into gold, has long been tied to art, as the Italian scholar and curator Arturo Schwarz said, “The alchemist and the artist share the same ambition: that of doing to understand, and of understanding to transform, both themselves and the world.” In *Personal Alchemy* three Bay Area artists transform personal memories, concerns, and pain into work that inspires positivity and empathy. This exhibition brings together woven textiles by **Terri Friedman**, ceramic sculpture by **Maria Paz**, and paintings by **Muzae Sesay**. Each artist uses art as a catalyst for healing and combatting anxieties, both personal and political.

Maria Paz, *There's One Condition*, 2018, Porcelain and glaze.
Courtesy of the Artist.

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For Terri Friedman, making art is a method of healing by taking action against despair. Friedman relates the act of weaving to the connections made by neurons in the brain. She's interested in the brain's capacity to create new neural pathways to work out negative thinking. Many of Friedman's textiles in *Personal Alchemy* contain text that reflects both her anxiety about the state of the world and optimism toward its future, weaving the words "Awake," "Now," "SOS," and "Wrong Way" through her panels. She uses color, abstraction, and text as "memorials of light coming through loss...all through a filter of optimism."

Maria Paz's ceramics are vessels for storytelling, illustrated with a cacophony of personal iconography, vignettes of memories, and intimate experiences. Her imagery captures her experience growing up undocumented in the United States and her recent trip back to Chile where she was born. Art is a way for Paz to heal her familial trauma while honoring her Chilean ancestors. For this exhibition, Paz is experimenting with new large ceramic pieces along with site-specific sculptural and painted installations.



Terri Friedman, *If you let me be in your dream, I'll let you be in mine*, 2017, Wool, acrylic, cotton, metallic fibers. Courtesy of the Artist.



Muzae Sesay's work explores his memory of environments and spaces, his own personal memories or imagining another person's memory and how that experience would feel. His paintings touch upon themes of community, urbanization, and home. For his series in *Personal Alchemy*, Sesay focuses on the breezeblock, a type of concrete block that allows for both airflow and decoration in homes and buildings. Breezeblocks were popular in mid-century modern California architecture, especially in Southern California where the artist grew up. Sesay, as well as Paz and

Muzae Sesay *Untitled Breeze Blocks #2*, 2020, Oil on canvas, 72 x 48". Courtesy of the Artist and Pt. 2 Gallery, Oakland, CA.

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Friedman, are focused on interconnection, using personal experience and emotions in creating work that explores what it means to be human.

Personal Alchemy is supported in part by members of the ICA's Director's Circle.

David Ellingsen: Weather Patterns

Cardinale Project Room
April 4 – August 16, 2020

David Ellingsen: Weather Patterns is an immersive projection installation that visualizes milestones in climate breakdown.

Everyday, Ellingsen makes a single photograph in nature using a consistent set of parameters including location, focal length, aperture and framing – resulting in a sizeable archive of images. At a later date, when he becomes aware of a new breaking record in climate degradation, he draws upon this archive to create large-scale composite works. While some individual days appear as a milestone, most of these emblematic compilations combine many days into a single work, enabling the viewer to see wide swaths of historical records at a glance. Most of the final works take weeks, months or up to a year to complete.



David Ellingsen, 2018 *October, 2nd Hottest on Record and 42nd Consecutive October with Temperatures Above the 20th Century Average (global)*, Pigment ink on cotton rag, 42 x 52.5". Courtesy of the Artist.

As climate breakdown advances, and records are broken with increasing regularity, the construction of a photo-series forces one to bear witness to the changes occurring. This ongoing diary enables a process of both recognition and memorial to the slow violence being imposed on the natural world.

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The exhibition will include a sound element produced by Canadian sound artist Jamie Druin. The background soundtrack of water elements, broken, mixed and distorted, simultaneously calms and disturbs the viewer.

Canadian photographer David Ellingsen began his career as a freelance assignment photographer working with clients including the *New York Times Magazine*, Business Development Bank of Canada, Canadian Medical Association, Oprah Winfrey Network, *People* magazine and CBC Radio Canada. Simultaneously, he was exhibiting his personal work in public and private galleries. He has had solo exhibitions throughout Canada, the United States, Lithuania, and Mexico. His work has been shown in group exhibitions in Canada, Italy, Russia, Argentina, USA, Netherlands, South Korea, UK, China. His work is held in permanent collections at the Chinese Museum of Photography, Lishui, China; Datz Museum of Art, Gyeonggi-do, South Korea; Beaty Biodiversity Museum, Vancouver, Canada; Cleveland Institute of Art, Cleveland, United States; Four Seasons Hotel, Toronto, Canada; Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center, Boston, USA; and The Center for Fine Art Photography, Fort Collins, USA.

David Ellingsen: Weather Patterns is supported in part by the Members of the ICA.

***Jingjing Lin:
You Can Trust Me: A New
Dawn For America***

Off-Center Gallery
April 4 – August 16, 2020



Jingjing Lin, *A New Dawn for America* (video still), 2020, video.
Courtesy of the Artist.

Jingjing Lin's video projection installation *You Can Trust Me: A New Dawn For America* introduces, for the first time in history, an AI presidential candidate. The video installation piece delivers a passionate and detailed speech given by the AI candidate. The AI candidate takes information, processes it, and then uses its mathematical computing power to calculate gains and losses prior to making choices and taking action. While the AI candidate surpasses humans in logical reasoning and decision-making, it is also untethered from biological and personality flaws and incapable of personal scandals and political tyranny. It is

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the most reliable and trustworthy candidate in terms of fulfilling public service and civil obligations, and at the same time satisfies the selection criteria of most voters. In Lin's *You Can Trust Me: A New Dawn For America* campaign, she poses the question: can machines be more rational or reliable than humans?

Lin is a conceptual visual artist whose work deals primarily with social-political themes. She is known for exploring the depths of social and personal identity in the context of modern society, often examining themes such as confusion and quest, existence and absence, constraint and resistance through a paradoxical lens. Her work has been exhibited in major public museums including Neues Kunstforum in Cologne, Germany; the National Art Museum of Chile in Santiago; the Long Museum in Shanghai; the Ivam in Valencia, Spain; the Kunstraum in Vienna; Galeria Herold in Bremen; Saint Mary's University Art Museum in Halifax, Canada; the Leonard Pearlstein Gallery in Philadelphia; Ljubljana Castle in Slovenia; the Tikanoja Art Museum in Vaasa, Finland; the Nanjing Museum; the Du Land Modern Art Museum in Shanghai; and Song Zhuang Art Museum in Beijing.

You Can Trust Me: A New Dawn for America is supported in part by Members of the ICA.



**LigoranoReese:
*Truth Be Told***

Lounge

April 4 – August 16, 2020

LigoranoReese, *Truth Be Told*, *The Anniversary of Trump's Inauguration*, January 20th, 2018, Photograph. Courtesy of the Artists and Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco, CA.

In 2018, during the anniversary of Trump's inauguration, artist duo LigoranoReese (Nora Ligorano and Marshall Reese) melted the word "Truth" in the National Mall in Washington DC. Combining message and medium, the one-word 2,000 pound ice sculpture slowly disappeared as onlookers watched. The ICA is pleased to present the recording of this time-based piece in the ICA's Lounge.

Nora Ligorano explains, "Ice is a time-based material and brings to mind feelings of loss and

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decay as it erodes. It has an elegiac feel. If you think of these pieces as temporary monuments, and monuments are public artworks for people to contemplate, bringing truth to Washington gives people the opportunity to reflect on what we are losing, because truth is at the center of it.”

On June 20th, LigoranoReese will melt the words “Ars Longa, Vita Brevis,” (Art is Long, Life is Short) outside the ICA during the 40th anniversary celebration.

Nora Ligorano and Marshall Reese collaborate as LigoranoReese. Their artwork examines society through images and sound from print, television, internet, and radio. They have exhibited at the San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art, Biennial of Contemporary Art in Cartagena, Colombia, Catharine Clark Gallery, Kent Fine Art, Portland Art Museum, MIT MediaLab, Museum of Arts & Design, New York Public Library, and Lincoln Center. They have received funding from the Jerome Foundation, Puffin Foundation, NYFA, NYSCA, NEA, and been in residence at the MacDowell Colony, Montalvo Arts Center, and Djerassi Resident Artists Program. They are represented by Catharine Clark Gallery.

Chris Eckert: Art & Life

Windows

January 5 – June 20, 2020

Chris Eckert: Art & Life is a site-specific installation by the artist in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the ICA. Two large machines skim the Internet for sentences. One machine searches for comments about art, the other searches for remarks on life. Each machine slowly writes the collected sentences on translucent screens filling both front windows at the ICA during the six-month installation. The written sentences are executed in various styles of handwriting belonging to friends of Eckert and the ICA.

As the end of the installation approaches, the machine collecting sentences about art scribbles large block letters forming “Ars Longa” while the machine searching for sentences relating to life scribbles “Vita Brevis.” The



Chris Eckert, *Art + Life* (installation detail), 2020, Site-specific Installation, polychromed metal and microelectronics, with assistance from Martin Fox and John Green. Courtesy of the Artist

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phrase will be fully realized on June 20th during the ICA's 40th anniversary celebration. LigoranoReese's *Ars Longa, Vita Brevis* ice sculpture that will melt away outside the ICA on the same date.

Chris Eckert is a California-based artist who uses technology and machinery—media that are often thought of as cold and impersonal—as vehicles for exploration and introspection. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally including venues in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Boston, Austria, Germany, France, Switzerland and Japan. In 2018 Eckert's work was exhibited in a solo exhibition at the San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art entitled *Privacy Not Included*. Eckert received his BS and MS in Mechanical Engineering from Santa Clara University and his MFA from San Jose State University.

***Profiles: Portraits of South Bay
Creatives***

Corridor Gallery

March 22 – August 16, 2020



Photo Credit: Daniel Garcia

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Events and Public Programs

Opening Reception

Sunday, April 5; 2-4PM

Artist Walkthrough and Artist Performance from 1-2PM.

The reception is open and free to the public from 2-4PM. The Press is invited to attend the Artist Walkthrough and performance prior to the public reception.

Curator Tour

Friday, April 10; 12-1PM

Talking Art

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

ICA Members: Free admission

Non Members: \$10

Students: Free

Sunday, May 31: *Hindsight in 2020*, 3-4:30PM

Kicking off the ICA's 40th anniversary, *Hindsight in 2020* will include a panel of arts professionals to discuss the history and future of non-profit contemporary arts organizations. Moderated by ICA Executive Director and Chief Curator Cathy Kimball.

Sunday, July 12: *Healing Through Art*, 3-4:30PM

This panel will bring together artists, scholars, and psychologists to explore the relationship between mental health and art. Artists will discuss how they see their work as a tool for personal, familial, and social healing. This panel will build on themes presented in the exhibition *Personal Alchemy* and will be moderated by ICA Curator Christine Koppes.

Sunday, August 16: *Environmentalism + Art*, 3-4:30PM

In conjunction with the closing of *David Ellingsen: Weather Patterns*, this panel will address sustainable art practices and art as a tool to raise awareness of environmental destruction.

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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, April 3: *Come-up Collaboration*, 7-10PM

A night featuring a lineup of local musicians and creatives. In collaboration with San Jose's *The Come-Up*.

Friday, May 1: *Mental Health Awareness*, 7-10PM

May's First Friday event honors Mental Health Awareness month through hands-on activities, educational resources, guest community organizations, and artist-led workshops relating to themes in the exhibition *Personal Alchemy*.

Friday, June 5: *80's Night*, 7-10PM

Put on your leg-warmers for a night that will wind back the clock to the 1980's. The ICA will host an eighties night with guest DJ's and a costume contest in honor of our 40th Anniversary.

Friday, August 7: TBD, 7-10PM

Art After Dark

The ICA stays open late every second Thursday of the month. Visit us for an evening of art viewing, socializing, complimentary beverages, snacks, and music.

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

Thursday, April 9, 2020

Thursday, May 14, 2020

Thursday, June 11, 2020

Thursday, July 9, 2020

Thursday, August 13, 2020