

G16

LITTLE RITUAL

A GROUP EXHIBITION

JULY 30 - AUGUST 27, 2021

OPENING RECEPTION FRIDAY JULY 30, 5 - 8PM

Bonanza, Iggy Capra, Lena Gustafson
Robert Hardgrave, Charlie Leese, Nick Makanna
Evan O'neal Kirkman, Ariella Robinson
Jered Sprecher, Cate White

This exhibition blends the work of gallery artists alongside Bay Area artists with whom we are showing for the first time.

To be a practicing artist is to engage in the ritualistic process of translating ideas into form. Rituals can be classified as a ceremony of actions performed according to a prescribed order to attain transformation and meaning. Sometimes creation can be a ceremony charged with excitement and mystery, while at times it can feel trite in its regularity. The artists featured in "Little Ritual" play with exposing hierarchical expectations of the creative ritual, and find magic by embracing their own contrariety.

Bonanza is the collaborative practice of Conrad Guevara, Lindsay Tully, and Lana Williams. The singular name, *Bonanza*, acts as the persona for which we perform under and it is with this moniker that we challenge the notion of the singular, heroic artist. Bonanza's diverse projects include installation, film, fashion and performance. Our work strategically challenges the fixity of identity through different forms of signaling, posturing, flexibility, and resilience.

Iggy Capra is an artist, radio DJ and poet living in Oakland. He is concerned with painting's capacity to operate as a stage for fantasies. Here, structures of belief are called into paradox; both flayed and enlivened, through playful engagement with characters of earnestness, hyperbole, animism, art history, humor and magick

Lena Gustafson is a painter and multi-disciplinary artist living and working in Oakland, CA. Her paintings depict scenes of transformation often with figures or plants merging with their environment. Primary themes in Gustafson's work include body memory, repression, sequential evolution, and reciprocity. She received her BFA from the Art Institute of Boston in 2011.

Robert Hardgrave is an artist interested in systems; in particular systems with potential for surprise and new development. Hardgrave uses a variety of media to make and find that exploration within separate systems feeding his work in the invention of ideas and modes of consideration. He believes materials guide the work toward what it is going to be, allowing the confidence to trust his inclinations and flow. Content follows a process where the action of making reveals feelings and notions which can be read similar to a dream. Hardgrave attempts to make work which is suggestive yet maintains mystery.

Charlie Leese was raised in Kentucky and California. His artistic practice embodies caustic remainders of a world where solutions of an alternate type of elegance are arrived at from brutish gestures. Interiors of left behind structures are rendered as exteriors, offering new formal possibilities and ever recombinant content. He lives and works in San Francisco CA.

TRUNCATED BOVINITY #1 is one of three sculptures in the series, all are iterations of the same form, linked by their scale, and cylindrical shape. All are SHELLS -- vessels evacuated of their intended function and left as forms with an equilibrium of exterior facade and interior space. They are architectural models of non-existent worlds, much like 'incompiuto architecture' they are forms that can never be whole; they are grotesque yet full of character, living as brand new ruins. They are decaying carcasses, abandoned motor casings, and dumped microwave ovens, with only the hope of being reimaged.

Nick Makanna is a San Francisco based artist, creating looming ceramic sculptures which evoke a sense of dusty empires, decaying monuments and fragile landscapes. These precarious structures are inspired as much by the artist growing up surrounded by the Bay Area's rich ceramic tradition and ever changing landscapes, as they are by an end of days anxiety that accompanies our impending political and environmental crises. He's exhibited most recently alongside his wife and fellow ceramicist Maryam Yousif at Andrew Rafacz Gallery (Chicago, IL), as part of Berkeley Art Museum's "Way Bay" exhibition, and at Bay Area galleries including Guerrero Gallery, The Richmond Art Center and Alter Space. Makanna received an MFA from SFAI in 2016.

Evan O'Neal Kirkman is a conceptual artist born in Denver, Colorado in 1989. Using appropriated images and texts, Kirkman's work resists traditional assumptions of authorship in favor of subtext and ambiguity.

Ariella Robinson

If the modernist photographer's job was to organize the world into a series of images, the job of the contemporary photographer is to mediate the world as a series of images, and to translate their understanding as such. Working in and around photography, fibers, research, text, and archival methodologies my practice superimposes the personal and the political and aims to develop a language with the ephemeral.

This body of work was informed by the life and work of German language, Romanian-Jewish poet Paul Celan, who described his writings articulating the trauma of the post-War era as an

effort in becoming silent. When my body feels suspended between digital and material worlds, when my devices alert me that the permafrost is melting, that the president tweeted we should drink bleach, all while I'm taking a picture of my butt in new pants, I wonder, where do we end and where does the rest of the world begin? Why does it feel so good to take selfies and pix of the sunset. What will happen to all of our photographs of flowers and fireworks when we die? Where will we find enough silence to avoid the circuitous nature of history amidst the cacophony of the present.

Jered Sprecher makes paintings that exist in the sliver of space between abstraction and representation. Sprecher looks to the lived daily experience of the present coupled with the artifacts of the past. His work compresses time into the surface of painting, that old technology. Increasingly flora, fauna, and natural phenomena hold his attention, as he wrestles with this imagery that we daily experience through our technology. Birds, plants, flowers, stones, and fires dissolve into the light of the screen, the digital lens, and the glowing tablet. There is something elegant and tragic about the evanescent light of the screen pressing the image of a delicate flower into one's memory. Light, flower, and technology are here and also fade away.

Cate White

Born in 1971 into the back-woods culture of Northern California, White's intimacy with cultural margins is reflected in her work—in subject matter and in philosophical perspective. In her current life, she travels broadly and deeply, psychically and socially, exploring the existential and cultural realities of human suffering, struggle and resilience. Her symbolically charged, narrative paintings illuminate many of our personal and collective shadows in relation to class, race, gender, trauma, morality and power. To communicate and represent across social strata, White uses a democratic aesthetic of figurative storytelling, comedy and raw emotion.