



Arts WAREHOUSE

W - F 10am - 7pm | Sat 10am - 5pm

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May 5th – June 30th, 2023
Group Exhibition
Part of Express Yourself Art Ball 2023

In partnership with Deon C. Jefferson, BeWell PBC, and Arts Warehouse, this exhibition is held as part of the 2nd Art Ball – A celebration of fashion, art, and music in honor of Mental Health Awareness Month (May).

SUPER was curated from an open call for art, welcoming all iterations of the show's themes. The exhibition features 21 artists whose work reflects on, or highlights, mental and behavioral health. This year's sub-theme is SUPER -power, -hero, -visor, -ficial, -star, -califragilisticexpialidocious, etc – whatever it meant to the artist.

Looking towards the dictionary, we find multiple interpretations of super's definition:

Super is an adjective that describes something as of the highest power or as excellent. Super is also used in slang as an adverb meaning very or extremely. Super has several other senses as a noun and an adjective.

If something is super, it is of the highest rank, authority, or similar quality or is the most extreme. Unsurprisingly, this sense of super is often used for emphasis in marketing or informal writing.

The prefix super- and its variant sur- mean "over." Examples using this prefix include superior, supervise, surname, and surface. An easy way to remember that the prefix super- means "over" is through the comic book hero Superman, who is the man "over" all other men in terms of physical power.

Both 2D and 3D works are represented amongst 26 works selected. This exhibition will open May 5th, 2023 at First Friday Art Walk 6 – 9pm and be on view through June 24th, 2023.

Exhibiting Artists

Abbe Kalman

Kellijean Press

Andrea Facusse

Marcia M L Mello

Ann Schwartz

Marilyn Valiente

Arlet Gomez

Megan (M.E.V.)

Franasiak

Ates Isildak

Moth Jorgensen

Ben Morey

Renata Rodrigues

Christie Toussaint

Zoe Alexa

Crystal Bremser

Deon Jefferson

Emilio Apontesierra-Paretti

Felisa Prieto

Gregory Dirr

Kai Orenstein

Katya Neptune



Abbe Kalman

"The Super Complexity of Thought"

Mixed media

30" x 48"

2021

\$2,895

"Anxiety is often caused by overthinking. It can be from a simple thought, idea, problem or unfamiliar situation that exacerbates into a major sense of dread, distress or uneasiness where you cannot think of anything else. In this piece I used the lower circular shape to signify the original thought and continued upwards to where the singular thought blew up into a major anxiety ridden event. I used various layers of acrylic paint, mediums and papers to create the textures in this piece. Rice papers, painted magazine and newspaper cutouts, mulberry papers, and papers I made by painting on rice paper constitute the materials I incorporated into this work."

Bio

Abbe Kalman began her art career at the age of 10 when one of her collages was chosen to be part of a children's show in honor of the Lincoln Center in New York City. Since, she's showcased in numerous galleries like John Harms Art Center, The Sidney Rothman Gallery, The Nathan's Gallery, Custom Touch, and Gallerie 32 in New Jersey. After moving to South Florida in the late 90's, she's exhibited at the Armory Art Center, WPB, Coral Springs Art Museum, Lighthouse Center for the Arts, JCC Schuman Gallery, Bailey's Contemporary Arts Center, and the Southside Cultural Arts Center, amongst others and various arts festivals. Kalman currently sits on the Board of Directors of Women in the Visual Arts.



Andrea Facusse

"On the Path"

Mixed media

48" x 48"

2023

\$8,500

"'On The Path' is about resilience and strength as we go on this journey called life. We go through a lot of obstacles and trials that can take us off our destined path. Resilience and strength will continue to lead us on the right path to where we are meant to go."

Bio

Andrea Facusse is a Honduran-American visual artist. Her artistic skills encompass a wide range of mediums, including 2D acrylic and oil paintings, murals, and installation artwork. Facusse is mainly self-taught however, she studied art theory and painting practice with Venezuelan artist Geula Zylberman. Andrea is a well-respected artist in Palm Beach and is currently in her fourth year of residency at the Arts Warehouse in Delray Beach, Florida.

Andrea's artwork has been displayed in numerous galleries throughout Palm Beach County, including the Cultural Council of Palm Beach, Boca Raton Innovation Campus, Arts Warehouse, and more. Her creative pieces have caught the attention of various media outlets, including Boca Raton Magazine, where her work was featured, and La Primera 104.1 FM, where she participated in a live Spanish radio interview. In addition, PBS South Florida also did an excerpt about her work.

Facusse's art often reflects on mental health, environmental disruption, gender inequity and social inequalities. She uses her platform as an artist to raise awareness and open dialogue

to these different pressing issues facing our world today. For example, her series featuring endangered species highlights the urgent need for conservation efforts to protect these animals and their habitats. Similarly, her work exploring mental health encourages viewers to reflect on their own experiences and the importance of addressing mental health issues in society.

Overall, Andrea Facusse's art is a powerful expression of her commitment to bring awareness to various pressing world issues. Andrea is an accomplished artist whose exceptional talent has earned her a significant following and a well-deserved place within the contemporary art community.



Ann Schwartz

"Contemplation"

Mixed media

26" x 32"

2020

\$2,500

"This piece is both cathartic and calming in its process of creation, cutting and gluing the individual pieces in place, and also the imagery itself. The piece is meant to elicit feelings of calm, inspired by the figure sitting peacefully in the garden contemplating the wildlife, fish and turtles."



Ann Schwartz

"Enchanted Garden"

Mixed media

27" x 30"

2022

\$1,800

"This piece is both cathartic and calming in its process of

creation, cutting and gluing the individual pieces in place, and also the imagery itself. The piece is meant to elicit feelings of happiness and peace. "Enchanted Garden" began with the little girl with the bouquet of flowers in her hands. I added other images around her that created the mood of happiness and peace in the garden as the collage started to take shape."

Bio

Ann Schwartz received her B.A. from the University of Florida. A former teacher, she is currently an award winning artist, curator and lecturer and a Past-President and Exhibition Chair of Women in the Visual Arts. She has participated in several solo and over 100 group exhibitions. Ann was selected to represent the United States for the Farindola International Art Festival in Italy. Ann's art can be found in collections in England, Italy, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Missouri, North Carolina and Florida.



Arlet Gomez

"The Knot"

Acrylic on canvas

24" x 36"

2022

\$7,200

"Expressing with ludic symbolism the process that the human being goes through with divergent thoughts, this is the inspiration for "The Knot". The first layers of this painting started with a spontaneous dripping of paint that imitates class exercises of some of my students with Autism spectrum disorder, because we must first understand their world, and then develop empathy and knowledge of what is important for them. You decide whether to be the one who reads, or the one who dreams, but everything will depend on how tight the hammock knot is for both of you. Mental health...is not a

destination, but a process: History is a string full of knots, the best you can do is admire it, and maybe tie it up a bit more. History is a hammock for swinging and a game for playing."



Arlet Gomez

"On the Way"

Acrylic on canvas

36" x 36"

2023

\$3,600

"Expressing with ludic symbolism the process that the human being goes through with divergent thoughts, this is the inspiration for "On the Way". The first layers of this painting started with a spontaneous dripping of paint that imitates class exercises of some of my students with Autism spectrum disorder, because we must first understand their world, and then develop empathy and knowledge of what is important for them. The scene of a child playing with his train in the middle of a railway is the image of how much innocence and dream persists in the thoughts of the angels I teach to paint on my working days. Mental health...is not a destination, but a process. It's about how you drive, not where you're going."

Bio

Arlet Gomez [b. 1983, Cuba] has been a US resident since 2013. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2009 from the University of Fine Arts in Cuba. Havana. There's eight solo exhibitions and more than twenty collective exhibitions from 2003 onwards under her belt; in her country of origin and in others such as USA, Mexico, Italy, Denmark and Portugal.

Gomez has participated in art shows such as 36th and 37th Annual All Florida Exhibition, Alliance for the Arts , USA(2022-2023), Ventipertrenta, Dynamic International Museum of

Contemporary Art. Italy (2009), and ARS Latina in Havana and Baja California, Mexico (2009 and 2007).

She was awarded the “Juan Francisco Elso” Scholarship in 2010 which is awarded by the AHS (Asociación Hermanos Saíz), a cultural and artistic organization that selectively groups writers, artists, intellectuals and young promoters up to 35 years or younger in Cuba. Other awards include: the III Millennium Scholarship of Spain (2008-2009), an Award in Painting by ArtiGras Fine Art Festival and The Palm Beach North Chamber of Commerce (2023), a Palm Beach County Art in Public Places “Outside the Box” Prize (2021), an ISOLE International Prize, Sardinia, Italy (2011), and First Prize in Contemporary Art awarded by the Exteril Foundation in Porto, Portugal (2008).



Ates Isildak

"Domestica"

Digital video

Dimensions vary

2018

NFS

"Short horror film about the fear of domestication and the daily mundane from the subconscious of a woman. This piece is inspired by Jessica Kigar, my partner of 7 years, a relationship that ended 5 years ago. She was a beautiful, kind person that suffered from alcoholism and depression. She passed away in 2022."

Bio

Ates Isildak lives and works in Palm Beach County. His parents are both from Turkey. Ates Isildak received a B.A. in English Literature from University of Central Florida, and is an Alumn of Dreyfoos School of the Arts. Though primarily a portrait photographer and short film director concentrating centered around the LGBTQ communities he respects, his current work is more political in a broader sense, addressing the dangers of

blurring the lines between Church & State.

He is a recipient of the 2019-2020 South Florida Cultural Consortium, third place in the South Florida Cultural Council's 2021 Biennial, and recently premiered an Art In Public Places documentary for the City of West Palm Beach at The Norton Museum of Art. Ates Isildak's works have appeared at Norton Museum of Art, NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale, Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami, Spectrum Miami Art Basel, Cultural Council (Stuart & Lake Worth), Fritz Gallery. His video work has been premiered online by Troma, Spin Magazine, Flood Magazine, Office Magazine, Consequence of Sound, Noisey, & Vice.

Through photo and video collaborations inspired by gender fluidity, sexual ambiguity, and intersectionality, I'm trying to materialize that magical spark that comes from celebrating what was once taboo - giving shape to secrets, flaunting repressions. What interests me most is providing a safe space and a medium designed to exuberantly express marginalized communities. Color manipulation in my photos and video work is how I'm attempting to capture and subvert conventional expressions of beauty and sexuality. Feminism continues to be a theme in my work, inspired by the domestic struggles my mother, sister, and partner seem to share in. As I seek to twist notions of what is inherently masculine or feminine, I find myself focusing on the subconscious, and the frightening depths of femininity.



Ben Morey

"It's Your Funeral"

Oil and ink on paper

10.75" x 8"

2023

\$1,300

"It's Your Funeral!" is a playful contemplation on mortality depicting a potential design for my own sarcophagus, or elaborate coffin and containing references to toys a TV shows I loved as a child. The central figure, reminiscent of both a doctor and patient, is a metaphor for one's constant struggle and attempt at balance when it comes to their mental health as we all constantly fluctuate between self-diagnosis, care medication, hatred, compassion, abuse and healing throughout the course of our lives.

Bio

Ben Morey is a multimedia artist and designer originating from and working in South Florida. Growing up amongst saccharine, theme-park automatons and sun-bleached retirement communities gave him an impermeable appreciation for the absurd and a fascination with the duality of escapism and mortality. His work borrows from the opposing aesthetics of both the medical world and vintage children's television and game shows to further illustrate this duality while spanning a spectrum of media from drawing, painting, and sculpture to interactive, digital and sound. Morey received a BFA in Interactive Media from The Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), was the Marketing Manager for Young At Art Museum, Design Director for the Fort Lauderdale curatorial collective Bedlam Lorenz Assembly (BLA) and is currently a freelance designer for arts institutions and artists in South Florida.



Christie Toussaint

"The Art of Restructuring"

Oil on canvas

30" x 40"

2020

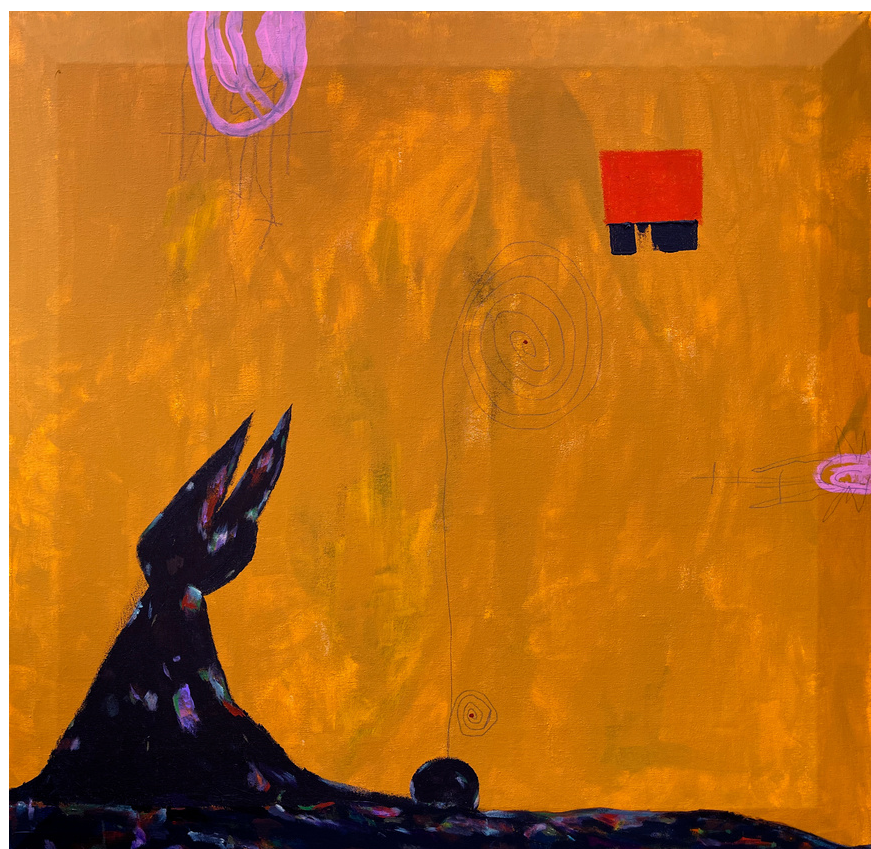
\$1,800

This piece was inspired by the active act of restructuring our thoughts and to continually improve on who we are as a person. If we are not intentional about restructuring, there's a version of us that will not live and there's another version of us that will continue to live but that should no longer be.

Bio

Born in Miami, Fl and raised in Cap-Haitien, Haiti, Christie is a self-taught contemporary mixed media artist. Her journey as a painter began while she was in search of self expression and a more profound connection with herself and the world.

Christie moved to the United States right around her teenage years. She is an alumna from the University of South Florida where she studied Biomedical sciences and Art History throughout her undergraduate career. Most of her subject matter is suggestive but you can often find the female portrait as a constant theme in many of her artworks. Whilst her initial mediums of choice were oil and acrylic paints, she discovered a few years ago the joy of working with myriads of unconventional tools and materials in which she finds unrestrictive to create a true body of work that speaks to who she is.



Crystal Bremser

"Forlorn Wanderlust"

Graphite, pastel, acrylic
on canvas

28.5" x 28.5"

2023

\$750

"Forlorn Wanderlust" is part of a collection that I will be expanding on in the future. This particular piece, one of my most important, is a reflection of how I personally internalize the world around me while traveling without the "excitement" or "awe" of the new places I discover.

And while it's true that every place I have traveled isn't necessarily some far away destination, I have a familiar depth of sorrow and void I carry with me no matter how near or far I travel from a place I call home. Some destinations - albeit beautiful, mysterious, or fascinating, come with a familiar comfortable dread I have carried with me since I could form words.

The nuance in the second word of the title "Wanderlust" being that although these feelings, sensations, and perspectives of underlying sadness reside deep within me, the strong desire to travel, explore, and learn is not beyond my grasp of willingness and action. To make the active choice of exploration and growth with the lust of understanding the world, understanding of people, of culture, of relationships around me, despite living with a constant reminder of the depth of sadness just underneath the surface of it all, is empowering and a permanent agonizing thorn in my side, all the same."

Bio

Crystal Bremser (she/they)[b.1990] is a self-taught visual artist from Stockholm, Sweden who primarily focuses on abstract point of view. Her work explores mental health in a perspective that manifests itself visually through paint and occasionally other mediums. They think of each creation as having its own personality, even an identity of sorts - giving their work a story, essentially bringing each piece to life in its own individual and illustrative form. Her primary mediums consist of acrylic on canvas though they frequently experiment with mixed media.



Deon Jefferson

"Aint Got No/I Got Life"

Mixed media

24" x 30"

2023

\$700

"Throughout Nina Simone's career, she suffered from bipolar disorder. The work includes several nods to being bipolar. The switch between two poles is emphasized in the black and white that is seen throughout the painting. Pop Art was one of my biggest influences while creating this piece, with the goal of depicting Nina Simone as a comic book character. Nina Simone was a musician and singer. The lyrics to her song "Aint Got No/I Got Life" is included in the background of the work. The beginning lyrics of the song describe what the singer lacks in life as well as her sadness. By the end of the song, the lyrics have changes to reflect a more positive change in her outlook and personality. Her song ends by the singer reclaiming her power by realizing the positive aspects of her life.

I was drawn to this song after watching the Nina Simone documentary that further explained the effect her bipolar disorder had on her career and life."

Bio

Creative artist, journalist, singer, and designer Deon Jefferson serves as the Grants Navigator for BeWell PBC. He began his design career working as a bridal stylist for Alfred Angelo Bridal. His work has been seen at New York bridal fashion week, in Trends wedding magazine, "Out and About" Southwest Florida, Upscale Magazine, and VEU Magazine. Deon worked as a contributing creative director for the 2019 Randy Fenoli's Silver Springs collection and styled 90's dance icon, Cece Peniston. He enjoys collaborating with photographers for styled shoots, engagement shoots, and lifestyle photoshoots.

In addition to being a designer, he has been a contributing writer for a number of publications in South Florida and Ohio. Deon holds a degree in Mass Communications/Broadcast Media from Central State University and has written for South Florida Gays News, South Florida Music Magazine, The Westside Gazette, Art and Culture Magazine just to name a few.



Emilio Apontesierra-Paretti

"Keep Dreaming"

Weaving Paper, Origami, and
paper manipulation on Canvas
48" x 48"

2022

\$6,000

"As an experimenter of the arts, Apontesierra-Paretti uses a mixture of influences in "Keep Dreaming" including Origami, Paper Sculpture, and Weaving Paper. In the dream, the woman figure is chasing a paper plane within the geometric chaos that surrounds her. In her dream, she knows there's more to this life than meets the eye. We do not abandon our dreams, even if alone and despite any daily difficulties and challenges from mental illnesses. Always follow your dreams and become a SUPER human!"

Bio

Emilio Apontesierra-Paretti is a Colombian American multidisciplinary artist born in Valledupar in 1968 he moved to South Florida in 2002 seeking political asylum. He is an experimenter of the arts with a mixture of influences who holds a Master degree in Education in Guidance Counseling. His visual body of work is created using Manipulated Photography, Ink on canvas, and Mixed Media. He creates sculptures and tridimensional art pieces on canvas, Plexiglas, framed boxes, and diverse flat surfaces using his Paper Manipulation Fine Art Technique, found objects, and non-conventional materials. Apontesierra's creations are influenced by more than 30 years of background in Scene & Theater Production and Costume Design. Also, by the vibrancy of his country of origin, and the color of the fashion world. He uses art for community mobilization towards social issues, health promotion, and environmental protection. He had participated in several group and solo exhibitions across the country, Colombia, and Dubai.

Since 2012 his body of work had been concentrated using his paper manipulation technique where he mixes Origami, Paper mâché, and Paper Sculpture with fiber manipulation and fashion design techniques. COVIDA is his first Public Art piece commissioned by the city of West Palm Beach, FL in 2020 when he was selected as one of the 15 artists in palm beach County for the Commons project: 15 artists, 15 Spaces. From 2022-2023 he has been working at the intersection of Faith, Art, and HIV. During his Artist in Residence at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC he created “Under My Skin: One God, many faiths” which is public art for Wait Chapel, and a paper weaving art piece called “The Good Dream” for the Gilead Compass faith Coordinating Center of the School of Divinity of Wake Forest University. Currently, he is creating another Under My Skin Sculpture for the Episcopalian church of St Mary Magdalene and St Martin in Coral Springs FL. His Sculpture High Fashion. Low Moral is the winner of the HIV is not a Crime 2023 National Campaign of the Sero Project, Emory Virginia.



Felisa Prieto

"#7 Chakra"

Recycled pillow stuffing
and black thread

2.5' x 3.5'

2014 - 2020

\$4,000

"This piece represents the brain, dreams, repressed memories, retention of information and my relationship with my pillow. If my pillow could talk, what would it say?"



Felisa Prieto

"Boredom + Distancing

Quarantine Day 8"

Digital Photography

20" x 30"

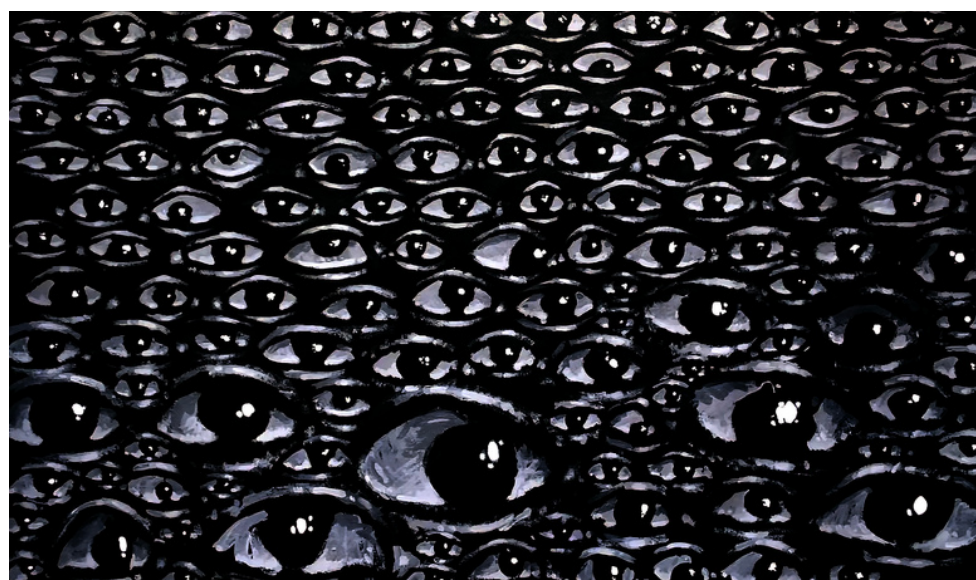
2020

\$450

"A selection from a photography series about each emotion that I went through in addition to boredom during the pandemic, quarantine and isolation."

Bio

Felisa Prieto was born in Bogota, Colombia in 1983; she moved to South Florida in 2001 with her family where she studied Fine Arts with emphasis on Photography at Broward College. In 2007 she transferred to The School of the Art Institute of Chicago where she received her BFA with emphasis on Environmental Art, Urban Sustainability and Textiles. She later moved to Houston and Brooklyn, where she worked as an art educator. Felisa currently resides in Fort Lauderdale where she continues her practice.



Gregory Dirr

"Sea of Eyes"

Acrylic on raw canvas

59" x 43"

2018

\$700

"A visual depiction of anxiety associated with agoraphobia, the term "sea of eyes" is something my friend/band member and I would say to each other during performances to describe a feeling we would have. A seemingly never ending ocean of eyes briefly glancing or staring intensely at you and through you. It would leave me wondering if any of the crowd were actually engaging in an experience or if they were just present in a dissociative state. It is almost as if the crowds were staring into a movie theatre screen of something prerecorded, not a physical act happening live in front of

them. To be fair there were always some audience members who truly enjoyed the performances but the sheer amount in comparison was always taken up by people in that void of the sea of eyes.

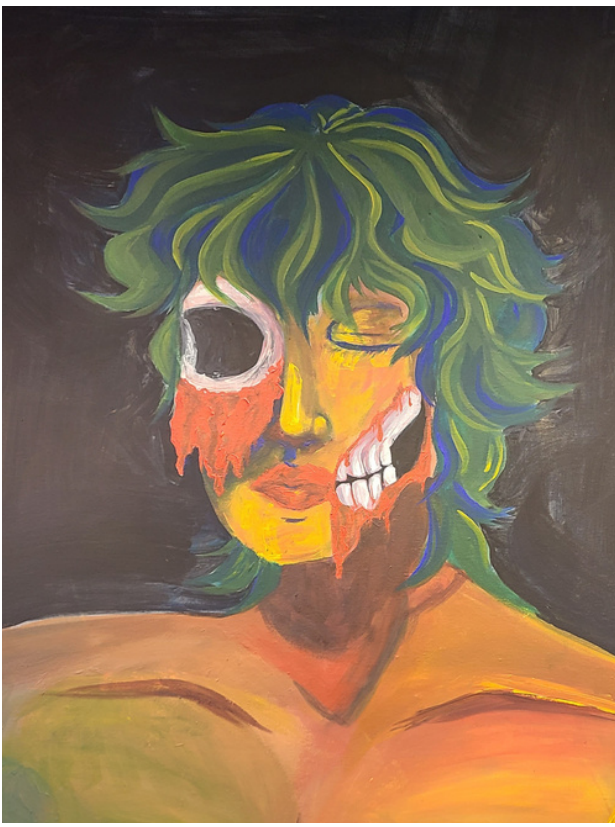
Somehow the sea of eyes feeling is intensified when I am one of the crowd. I don't know if it's proximity or the perspective but there is something worse about it. Someone feet away could be staring at me for hours, I am totally unaware of it until the moment I am and then they abruptly look away. The act of catching someone doing this has a sinisterness about it, there is a slight shock and surprise from both parties followed by an icky feeling. Would they have stopped if you hadn't caught them looking at you?

Maybe it's the unknowing? In a one on one conversation or small group you are given the opportunity to question someone's intentions behind their looks and body language directed at you but in a crowd it's a kind of unspoken politeness where we all just consciously ignore glances, staring or gesturing for the sake of embarrassment or to abide by social normalities.

Having eyes on you in any capacity can be uncomfortable, it's a strange subconscious awareness that you feel more than think. There is an uneasy feeling I get when confronted with someone inspecting and analyzing me without my consent, never knowing what they are thinking or why they're looking."

Bio

Born in Miami, Florida, Gregory is a visual artist whose works have been shown in solo exhibitions in South Florida and abroad. His most involved body of work, The Big Book, has been exhibited since 2008 including the most recent show in 2023. He was awarded the Silver Key for Portfolio by The National Scholastic Art and Writing Alliance in 2004 and received his BFA at Ringling College of Art and Design in 2008. While there, he produced many significant pieces winning the Best of Core and Best of Fine Arts awards. He is a current resident artist at Bailey Contemporary Arts Center in Pompano Beach, Florida.



Kai Orenstein

"Hidden Distress"

Acrylic

24" x 30"

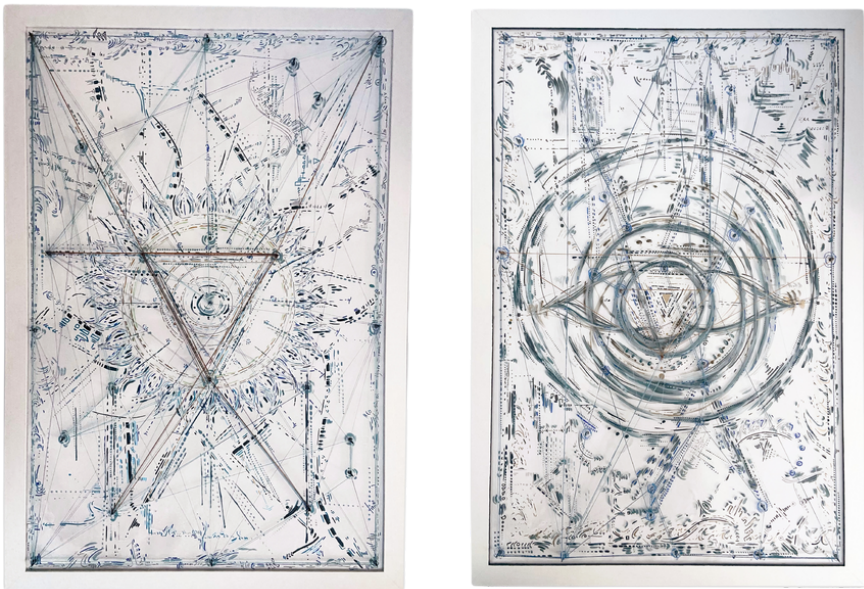
2023

\$300

"It's easy to show physical pain but when someone is in mental distress, those feelings are often denied and pushed down. Not to mention many feel like a burden talking about such heavy feelings. I hope to help others relate and feel less alone in their journeys and help them to express themselves."

Bio

Kai Orenstein is a local high school artist whose work focuses on their journey through depression and major body dysphoria. Art making provides an outlet to express unexplainable thoughts.



Katya Neptune

"The Contemplation of Vishuddha and Ajna (throat and third eye chakras)"

Mixed media

24" x 36" (Diptych)

2023

NFS

"Neptune's work is deeply personal and reflective, drawing on her own experiences with mental health and spirituality. She aims to destigmatize experiences that are often considered taboo or outside of the mainstream by normalizing the experience of spiritual visions. The Contemplation of Vishuddha and Ajna (throat and third eye chakras) is a visual representation of the inner workings of the mind and spirit. Through the use of abstract mapping, Neptune examines how to exercise an intuitive approach to connect the physical, emotional, and spiritual aspects of herself."



Katya Neptune

"The Amalgamation of the Past and Present"

Mixed media

48" x 12"

2010 - 2023

NFS

This diptych reflects Neptune's personal journey with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity and Bipolar Disorder, and her search for order and harmony through the use of repeating lines and shapes. Her process mirrors her scattered thoughts in the absence of language, with free-flowing movements through markings and the interrelation of various mediums to intuitively connect her subconscious and conscious mind.

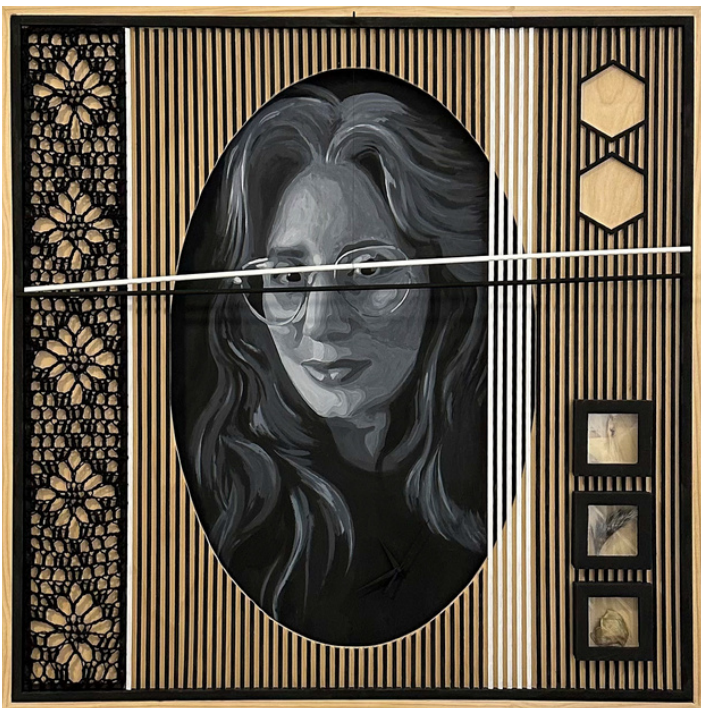
Through repetition and connected patterns, Neptune's work facilitates focus, concentration, and meditation, guiding her to find patterns in her own thoughts and emotions. The frequent waves in her medium mirror the highs and lows of her daily struggles. Every line and incision is a practice of commitment and forward moving, leading to the development of habits and discipline that help to simplify the complex. It explores the intersection between art and the psyche, demonstrating the potential for creativity to aid in the process of healing to promote balance.

Bio

Katya Neptune is a Filipina diaspora (b.1976 Angeles City, Philippines) who is based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where she works as an interdisciplinary artist with a socially engaged practice as she currently pursues her BA at Florida Atlantic University. Neptune has exhibited her work in various public spaces that include the Coral Springs Museum of Art, Bailey Contemporary Arts, Hatch 1121 Gallery, Arts United, Ali Cultural Arts, 1310 Gallery, and Miami Independent Thinkers during Art Basel. She has also been featured in various periodicals such as the Sun Sentinel, Broward Palm Beach New Times, Pelican Newspaper, Pompano Beach Magazine, RiverWalk Fort Lauderdale, and Voyage Miami. Neptune's work is process-oriented, reflective, and introspective. Her work explores the complexities of her mental health.

She uses personal and intimate visual narratives to share her struggle and healing to normalize conversations around this topic, and to de-stigmatize mental illness. Overall, the heart of her practice is a commitment to authenticity, and vulnerability and to serve as an advocate for others.

In addition to Neptune's art practice, in 2009 she founded ArtHeart. A non-profit organization that aims to empower artists of all levels to inspire healthful and imaginative growth in her community. As the Creative Director and Chief Curator for ArtHeart, Neptune has curated numerous exhibits in South Florida, featuring emerging and established global artists. In addition, ArtHeart serves as a fundraising mechanism for orphans in Rwanda, Africa, by partnering with We Are Zoe, a non-profit organization that strives to break the cycle of poverty in Rwanda Africa through education initiatives for orphaned children.



Kellijean Press

"The thing that makes the most sense but is also the most confusing"

Mixed Media

37.5" x 37.5" x 2.5"

2023

\$3,200

"There was the before the diagnosis and the after. Both times marked with complex feelings and questions - but mostly worrying if am I humaning in the way that should be expected. I was in my late thirties when I was diagnosed with ADHD and a few years later, a Bipolar Diagnosis. The first made a lot of sense and life got exciting as I had a name to put to the way I have always stumbled through my life. The second diagnosis came from a cry for help and, while that also made a lot of sense, it was way heavier to process. It made me feel more fragile, not something I ever considered, as I am the first to move a heavy thing without asking or dig into the dirt with my bare hands.

Slowly over the past few years I have found a comfortable place in which I balance my life. I have to be super in tune to my energy and moods, I have to intentionally advocate for my brain and body 24/7.

This piece is my now. The balancing act is front and center with the two hanging rods. threaded on a thin string they move slightly in the ambient breeze and my gaze is always looking through them. The piece as a whole is a curatorial display of a few of my collected creative skill sets, painting, wood working, crocheting. There are also three mini frames to highlight my love of curating and collecting beautiful things I find in nature. The frames are mounted with hinges for easy access to change the display as new little treasures to display are found.

The portrait is painted in grey scale. An attempt to remove any filters - perhaps the clearest way to analyze my existence. The black and white play against each other all over the piece. In some places they create tension and vibration - and in other areas there is a softness and a reference to comfort and warmth.

The clock keeps the correct time, but is blending into the background and painted the darkest black so it is not easy to read. The clock movement sits on my chest, the place where tension builds the most fiercely. The winding of the hands on the clock is tension and the fear of time running out.

My eyes have a strong gaze. They always have. I now just need to always ask if they are calm and secure or are they on the edge of a the road that gets a little too shaky?"

Bio

Kellijean Press is a multimedia artist driven mainly by the need to problem solve. Formally trained in painting and ceramics, Press is constantly picking up new skills and finding creative ways to use them. In the recent years, her work has included murals (5'x8' interactive), building furniture (a curved built-in storage bench), prop pieces for a dance competition, and most recently a 7' by 3' Eiffel Tower for a bat mitzvah.



Marcia M L Mello

"Mimicry"

Analog collage

16" x 16"

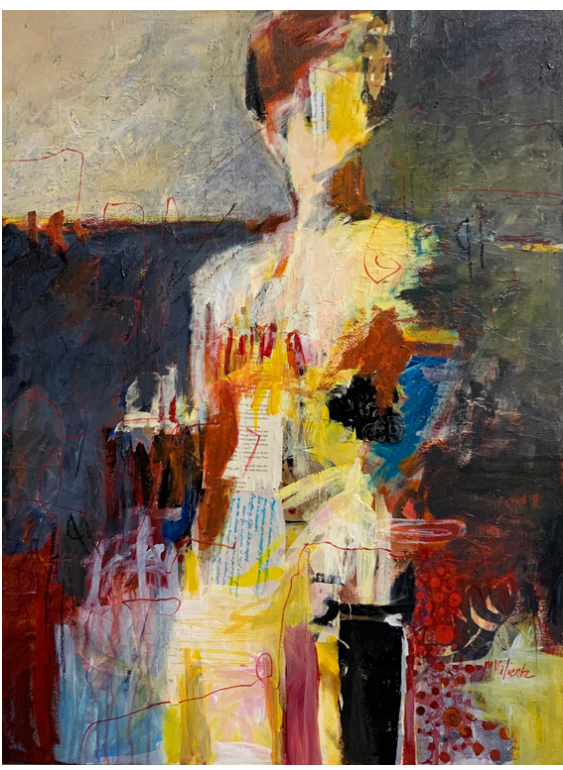
2023

\$1,250

"MIMICRY was created exclusively to honor the Mental Health Awareness Month (May). This artwork relates the importance of our connection to the natural world to its contribution to an optimal mental health. Research and our own exposure to nature have historically demonstrated the positive impact of the natural world to our well-being. In 2023, one of the three focuses of the Mental Health Awareness Month is "Opening Your Mind to the Outdoors". The artwork is composed of an analog collage that intertwines the beauty of the colorful geometric patterns of our healthy brains, revealed in brain scan images, to the ones found in plants and flowers, thus creating an uplifting artistic composition that reveals the positive effect of our interaction with nature on our mental health."

Bio

Marcia M L Mello's career intertwines her role as an artist and a designer in Miami, South Florida and in São Paulo, Brazil. Her artworks are abstract, created with rigorously compositions which are guided by strong geometry and the use of color. Though abstract, her artworks, for being directed by her experience as an architectural designer and educator, bring always a message to an audience the same way that as a designer she delivers a solution to a given prompt. Ms. Mello has lived in Miami since 1994. Since then, she has created her art while professionally working as an architect and educator in South Florida. Her analog collage work has recently been showcased in the Contemporary Collage magazine (UK).



Marilyn Valiente

"Memories of unfolding projections"

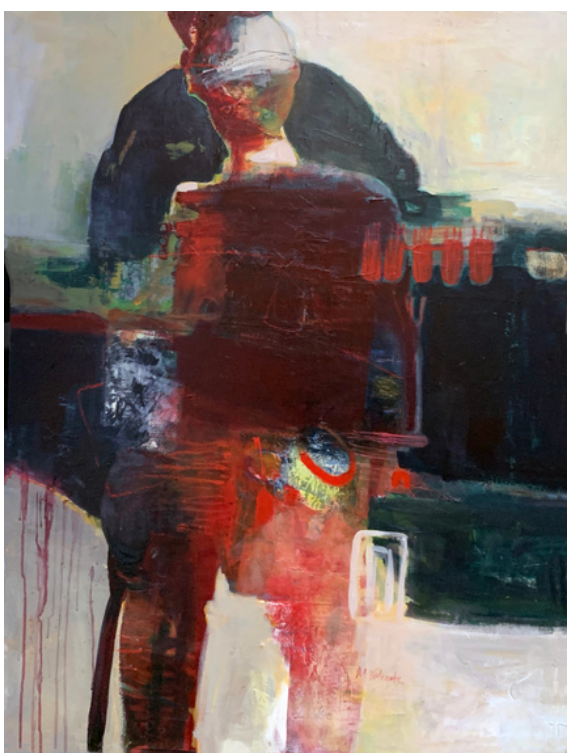
Mixed media on canvas

40" x 30" x 2"

2022

\$2,000

"Abstracted figure of a female dealing with the emotions, the energy, the memories we carry around. Some weight us down, some move us forward. Some positive, some negative. All are part of who we are. They are part of our history and how we perceive the world."



Marilyn Valiente

"The Hero, the Protector"

Mixed media on canvas

48" x 36" x 2"

2022

\$3,000

"From Carl Jung archetypes, this painting is an abstracted figure depicting the part of the personality that fights to protect the hearts of others. It is the part that does not give up. The hero in all of us."

Bio

Marilyn Valiente is a contemporary multimedia artist. Originally born in Cuba, she immigrated to the United States at the age of 8 and has lived most of her adult life in Miami. After her post graduate degrees, working as a psychotherapist and raising her two sons, she focused her attention on her love for art and the creative process. Now a full time artist, her artworks are visual representation of her emotions, her studies in psychology, and her many years of working as a psychotherapist. Bold colors, textures, and lines dominates the visual field with what appears to be a very spontaneous and intuitive process as she deals with the human condition and struggles.



Megan (M.E.V.) Franasiak

"Superimpose"

Watercolor, ink, and gouache
on wood

11" x 14"

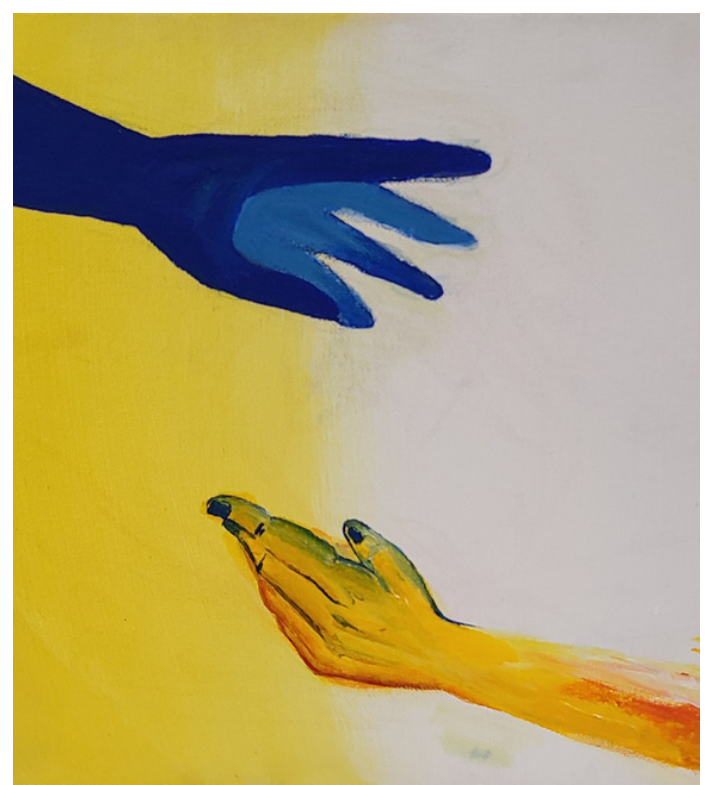
2023

\$500

"'Superimpose' shows a figure undergoing efforts to hide the external signs of their symptoms. The figures overlap and it is uncertain which is the true subject or if they are the sum of all their parts."

Bio

M.E.V Franasiak is an artist living and working in Portland, Maine. Ranging from drawings and paintings to costumes and performance, their work confronts their relationship with their mental health symptoms and the complex connection between diagnosis and meaning. Franasiak is currently exploring the tenuous ways in which one attempts to reveal or conceal true inner experiences.



Moth Jorgensen Left to Right: *"Dysphoria, Depression, Savior"*.
Acrylic. (2) 16"x20" and (1) 12"x12" (triptych). 2023. \$200.

A collaborative triptych between two local Trans Artists, Kai Orenstein & Moth Jorgensen.

Dysphoria: A body that doesn't feel like my own, my mind telling me constantly this isn't right. Telling me I'm meant to look another way than how I do. It doesn't feel right this body I was born into. I am not myself, I am not comfortable in this body I am supposed to call my own, constantly looking for someone to save me from this dysphoria.

Depression: Depression is another thing many people struggle to realize, express, and treat. When reaching out, often times these hands are denied the savior or can't find their savior.

Savior: Moth and Kai feel lucky to have found the comfort we each needed within each other to heal and grow from our dysphoria and depression learning to be our own and each other's saviors.

Bio

Moth Jorgensen is a Local Trans Artist active in the LGBT community and spends their downtime advocating for Trans & Mental health issues through artwork and community service projects.



Renata Rodrigues

"IT IS OK"

Acrylic on wood panel

27" x 27"

2020

\$1,860

"IT IS OK is the first piece that Renata painted when the pandemic hit the USA. It encapsulates all the uncertainty that what was going on at that time, where so many different emotions were taking over us. She wanted it to be a reminder to be kind not only to others, but also to ourselves. It portrays

someone reaching a hand out. Is it to be helped? Or is it to offer help? That is up to the viewers."

Bio

Renata Rodrigues is a visual artist born and raised in Brazil. She graduated in Graphic Arts at the University of Fine Arts of Sao Paulo. She has been living as an artist and art educator in West Palm Beach for the last 7 years, where she has exhibited her work in many galleries, art shows and events. Teaching is her way to give back to the community, hoping to inspire young artists to engage in a creative lifestyle. Renata loves nature and it's the main influence in her work. She enjoys painting people, animals and the bonding between them. Each creation process is a unique bundle of thoughts, feelings and medium experimentation. Working on small or large scale, public or commissions, she gives 110% of devotion to the project at hand. "I feel very blessed to be able to do what I love and I am very excited to keep challenging myself and collaborating with like minded creatives. "



Zoe Alexa

"Touch Stone Building Bricks (left to right- Park Bench, Parking Lot, Bathroom Sink and Metal Shop)"

Cardboard, mardi gras beads, plastic, foam, paper clay and glue (3) at 4"x8"x2.5" and (1) at 3"x6.5"x2"

2023

\$300 each

"Each brick is a touchstone representing a moment of monumental super emotions. They are titled after the locations of panic attacks I have had in my life. I have worked through these experiences by realizing they are malleable, whether good or bad, and have assigned a characteristic to each brick, translated as colors and shapes pushing outward. Identifying these moments through textural details helps to continue my conversation with my Super emotions."

Bio

Zoe Alexa is a multimedia artist based in South Florida. She received her BFA in Sculpture from the California College of the Arts in 2013, and is a maker of playfully-odd sculptures. Zoe informs her practice through previous work in prosthetic movie makeup, fabrication and upholstery. She recently completed a residency at Treats Studios in North Carolina making soft wall sculptures titled Notions.