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18th Street Arts Center

Introduction Video

18th Street Arts Center in Santa Monica, CA has been fueling the impact of artists on society since 1988. Conceived as a radical think tank in the shape of an artist community, we are a globally recognized catalyst for deploying artistic imagination to meet society’s needs. We curate projects where artists and the public directly engage in creating experiences and partnerships that foster positive social change.

LEARN MORE: 18thstreet.org.

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Claudia Concha

Metamorphosis

Metamorphosis is a “happening”, a collaborative experience where the artist co-creates with the audience.

LEARN MORE: Artist Website
Susan Kleinberg

TIERRA SIN MALES

TIERRA SIN MALES is based on the horrifying highway sign near the U.S. / Mexico border, warning drivers not to hit immigrant families as they flee across the road. It is a spinning, spiraling, fracturing video piece which moves both with and against expectations or known laws of physics. A large glass globe rolls tensely back and forth on a track over a central fulcrum. Embedded within the sphere is an image which may call forth numerous references, Attic, Etruscan ... but is in fact the highway warning sign. It rolls uphill, catching slightly over the edge, contorts, distorts, looks primeval or of the future. It premiered at Palazzo Fortuny, for the Venice Biennale.

LEARN MORE: Artist Website

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April Banks

Walkthrough of “A Resurrection in Four Stanzas”

Completed in February 2021, “A Resurrection in Four Stanzas” is Banks’ first permanent public art sculpture in Santa Monica, CA. Located at the Historic Belmar Park, the work commemorates a former Black community erased by eminent domain.

LEARN MORE: Artist Website
Orchestra Santa Monica
*Mending the Chasm*

Orchestra Santa Monica (OSM) was founded in 2012 by Dr. Allen Robert Gross. OSM’s mission is to build a strong community of classical music lovers of all ages and make a positive impact on the quality of people’s lives.

**LEARN MORE: Artist Website**

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**Labkhand Olfatmanesh**
*Cycle II (BabyMaybe Series)*
By Labkhand Olfatmanesh & Performance Artist, Ashley Menestrina

Launched in 2018, Baby Maybe is an ongoing project by Labkhand Olfatmanesh comprising performance, photographs, film, and interviews with women of childbearing age, and interactive gallery experiences that really explores the emotions around this question. Ashley and Labkhand are collaborating on a series of conceptual movement-based recordings structured around the nine-month gestation period from conception to birth. The series of nine videos and each day is a series of performance and documentation daily installations that dance around motherhood myth.

**LEARN MORE: Artist Website**
M Susan Brousard  
*Godess*

**LEARN MORE: Artist Website**

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**SLAB**  
*Cinematic map of negotiating space in an alley in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam*

SLAB is a collective led by Annette Miae Kim of interdisciplinary folks. We experiment with ways to map space and time in order to find where we are, to not feel lost, to integrate our human experience, and to propose alternate realities. We seek to see better, especially overlooked peoples and places.

This map shows how street vendors, residents, and police re-negotiated public space over a ten year period in a neighborhood in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Shown internationally, this video was also part of an installation that was exhibited in HCMC in 2014 and sparked a national discussion.

**LEARN MORE: Artist Website**
Susan McKay Krieser and Yrneh Gabon

Twenty-four seven

The video Twenty-four seven makes both figurative and literal allusions to the fast-paced lives led and the immediate shut down the world had to face in March 2020. While reminding us of changes over that year, it offers a message of hope; our lives will change and happiness will replace fear and death.

LEARN MORE: McKay Krieser's Website
Gabon's Website

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P.S. ARTS

We are P.S. ARTS

P.S. ARTS' arts education programs in public schools include arts instruction, arts-based educator training, and community arts events. Since our founding more than 30 years ago, P.S. ARTS has grown from serving 285 students in one school to serving 25,000 students and families in 50 public schools throughout Central and Southern California.

LEARN MORE: psarts.org
Orchestra Santa Monica

Front Porch View

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LEARN MORE: Artist Website

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Luciana Abait

Road Trip

Road Trip is a fantasy narrative through the American West. It portrays a world that has changed beyond recognition due to radical environmental perils. At the core of my work is a deep search to find a new place in the world to call home and to regain a sense of belonging in the midst of global catastrophes, environmental disasters, a pandemic and the omnipresent evil of racial discrimination. The altered landscapes eerily portray distortions taking the viewer on an out-of-this-world, supernatural voyage that enables them to get lost, find a sense of possibility and of freedom.

LEARN MORE: Artist Website
Luigia Martolleni  
SOULS OF SALT S.O.S.

SOULS OF SALT S.O.S. was conceived to connect cultures through an artistic project and address the harrowing journey of international refugee migrations. The tragic stories of displaced immigrants and refugees facing danger trying to cross the sea to escape from war, violence and hunger underscores the humanitarian importance of co-existence. SOULS OF SALT S.O.S. was shown at the 58th International Exhibit Venice Biennale, Palazzo Pesaro Papafava.

LEARN MORE: Artist Website

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Lita Albuquerque  
"Liquid Light", 2022, courtesy of the artist, Peter Blake Gallery, Kohn Gallery

An amalgam of iconography, biography, and emotional landscapes that embody a deeply personal mythology, Albuquerque’s film, "Liquid Light", the second film in a trilogy, invites the viewer into the 25th century female astronaut’s journey. Filmed on location in Bolivia, and the film was exhibited as a collateral event presented by bardoLA for the 59th La Biennale di Venezia, Biennale Arte 2022. “My 25th century astronaut character seeks to reacquaint us with our stellar origins. As she takes on human form, she re-experiences a myth from Lake Titicaca where an ancient being was said to bring light in the form of gold to earth and is caught between her mission and her newly embodied human emotions. Her mission is incomplete and she will return –there is an inextinguishable fire she feels in attempting to bring the knowledge of the celestial to the terrestrial,” - Lita Albuquerque.

LEARN MORE: Artist Website
Joan Wulf

*Installation view of Echoes, 2022*

Wulf focuses on relationships between trees—and by extension between trees and people—in her series Echoes. The body of work charts a sort of dance between tree and human, where the artist aims not to depict, but rather to record. The pieces are deeply corporeal, both in subject matter and method. After choosing her subjects carefully from her surroundings—be that in the city of Los Angeles or woods of Northern California—Wulf wraps each tree tightly in canvas, and, armed with wood she has charred, rubs the bark to map the imprint.

**LEARN MORE: [Artist Website](#)**

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Julia Michelle Dawson

*Le Mer*

Julia Michelle Dawson is a contemporary artist based in California.

**LEARN MORE: [Artist Website](#)**
Lola del Fresno
*Run Jonny Run*

Run Jonny Run, tells a thousand tales–about a person, about a community and about a country. One in which the simple act of running at night can become a death sentence for an African American, while the visuals—a red house suggesting danger lined by a fence of perpetual prejudice—allude to the killings of Trayvon Martin and Ahmaud Arbery. The audio component of Run Jonny Run is focused on breath, a direct correlation to the stolen life of George Floyd.

LEARN MORE: [Artist Website](#)

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Lionel Popkin
*Reorient the Orient*

Reorient the Orient is an 8-hour durational installation by Lionel Popkin examining his own archive of 30-years of artmaking within the history of representations of South Asian performers on Western stages. The event is presented in a gallery format with intermittent performed events and is commissioned by and premiering at REDCAT in downtown Los Angeles in 2024.

LEARN MORE: [Artist Website](#)
EZTV

With roots dating back to 1979, and an organization-in-residence at 18th Street Arts Center since 2000, EZTV is a group of media artists and thinkers dedicated to creating and presenting new directions in video, performance and digital art. An early adopter of new media, online presentation and large scale projection, it has been recognized at the Pompidou Museum and has a large collection of its archives at USC. In 2024, for its 45th anniversary it will be celebrated, along with its collaborative partner LA-SIGGRAPH, in a six month retrospective at Santa Monica College, inaugurating there an annual Digital Arts Festival and conference.

LEARN MORE: Artist Website

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Orchestra Santa Monica

Bay Street Beach

Orchestra Santa Monica (OSM) was founded in 2012 by Dr. Allen Robert Gross. OSM’s mission is to build a strong community of classical music lovers of all ages and make a positive impact on the quality of people’s lives.

LEARN MORE: Artist Website
Alexandra Dillon

*Portfolio of work*

LEARN MORE: [Artist Website]

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Melinda Smith Altshuler

*Dead Friends Directory and Butterfly Tower*

Realizing the number of important people who have passed through Melinda Smith Altshuler’s life she felt the need to document or memorialize the loss. Empty chairs create a sculptural presence that lingers and morphs through stages of loss and rich memory. The Butterfly Tower lightly attends to a hopeful presence.

LEARN MORE: [Artist Website]
Rebecca Youssef

_A film by the artist_

Rebecca Youssef is an eco-conscious, mixed media artist whose work has been featured in _Artforum_, _Hyperallergic_ and _Thrillist.com_. Her conservation efforts in the Santa Monica Mountains have been featured in _Los Angeles Magazine_ and the _Santa Monica Mirror_.

LEARN MORE: [Artist Website](#)

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Crystal Michelson

This video is the artist’s 2022 in review, “Some of the experiences I have had with friends, family and new art acquaintances sharing the joy art brings into our lives.”

LEARN MORE: [Artist Website](#)
Dan Kwong

Dan Kwong talks about growing up in a mixed-heritage Asian American artist family, and his work and life at 18th Street Arts Center.

LEARN MORE: Artist Website

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Mango FX

*Visual Effects Showreel 2022*

Mango FX is a collaborative boutique visual effects house. Some recent credits include *Los Frikis*, the story of the forgotten homeless teens in Havana who in the 1980s contracted HIV on purpose to receive food and care from the government. Mango FX produced the title sequence for *Severance* which won the Emmy. They recently finished visual effects on *Divinity*, an official Sundance selection for 2023.

Founded in 2006, Post Mango / Mango FX is a visual effects boutique that delivers innovative visuals for feature films, television series and high-end commercials. We are proud to be a part of the 18th Street Arts Center community and to support our fellow artists and artists-in-residence at any chance can we get. This video reel showcases a bit of our work from 2022, featuring “breakdowns” of many visual effects shots and offering a before/after comparison of shots from several projects and feature films. We hope you enjoy.

LEARN MORE: Artist Website