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CRAWFORD CONSERVATION INC.

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Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC, Offers MFA Thesis Exhibition

Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC, is presenting *Master of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition*, on view in the WCU Fine Art Museum, through May 7, 2021.

The exhibition showcases work in a variety of media and surveys a range of conceptual themes and creative approaches within contemporary art practice. The exhibition features four MFA candidates from the WCU School of Art and Design: Perry Houlditch, Mo Kessler, Lydia See, and Lex Turnbull.

The MFA program from the WCU School of Art & Design is an inter-disciplinary studio art program and creative research environment where ideas are given form. Through close association with faculty, visiting artists, scholars, and their peers, students develop a contextual and historical awareness of their practice focusing on exploration, creative research, and art-making. In this year's MFA thesis exhibition, the four exhibiting artists offer a range of conceptual approaches and mediums.

Perry Houlditch takes inspiration from plants and natural cycles in his watercolor works. His pieces use non-toxic pigments and plant-based materials that can be safely composted and returned to local ecological systems. Lydia See's practice focuses on re-interpreting found, discarded, and archival materials. Her thesis project takes a critical look at housing and displacement and includes the work *New Real Estate Available* -, located outdoors, which uses a playhouse and other imagery of "home" to raise ques-



Lydia See, "whitewashing the news", 2019-2020, newspaper, scrap paper, plaster mold

tions about housing access and policies.

Mo Kessler's works are deeply tied to a working-class identity. Through their sculpture and installation, they consider the problematic relationship between worth and wealth under capitalism. Lex Turnbull also creates forms that question societal assumptions. Their thesis brings together sculpture, printmaking, and video to explore notions of safety, boundaries, and power structures.

Learn more about each of the exhibiting artists, explore the interactive 360° tour once available, and make a reservation to visit the WCU Fine Art Museum in person, all at (arts.wcu.edu/mfathesis2021). In addition, stay tuned on the WCU Fine Art Museum Facebook page for a series of interviews with each of the artists.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 828/227-3591 or visit (<https://www.wcu.edu/bardo-arts-center/fine-art-museum/>).

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be May 24th for the June 2021 issue and June 24th for the July 2021 issue.

After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month.

But don't wait for the last minute - send your info now.

And where do you send that info?

E-mail to (info@carolinaarts.com).

Artworks Gallery in Winston-Salem, NC, Features Works by Charles Hahn and Katherine Mahler

Artworks Gallery in Winston-Salem, NC, will present two new exhibitions including: *Complexities, and Nuances of the Human Spirit*, featuring works by Charles Hahn, and *Wayfinding*, featuring works by Katherine Mahler, both on view from May 7 - 30, 2021. A Meet the Artists reception will be held on May 7, from 7-9pm, during the Winston-Salem Gallery Hop.

Charles Hahn's current project, "Complexities, and Nuances of the Human Spirit," concentrates on characterizing the striking aspect of each person's sensibility and inner self. The artist's goal is to capture, in engaging black and white photography, the essence of an individual while letting the environment play second fiddle to the images of vibrant sentient beings.

This body of work celebrates the subjects as individuals with their distinct souls, a center of being with a human quality to be appreciated. The way time moves on and things disappear; the photographs capture a moment in the past that one experiences in the present. Therefore, every photograph is ultimately about the passing of time, while preserving the spirit of the moment.



Work by Charles Hahn

Since his youth, Hahn spent untold hours in the darkrooms at school and at his home. It was during these early years that he cut his teeth on black and white film developing and processing. Early on he embarked upon



Work by Katherine Mahler

a journalistic essay by photographing Chipewewa Street, a seamy street in his hometown of Buffalo, NY, documenting in photography a world that would soon cease to exist. This first foray into street photography would be the predecessor of future projects, including work done in Winston-Salem where he currently resides. Although the people and places are different, the storytelling is eerily similar telling the stories of people who are usually overlooked.

The work presented in *Wayfinding* by Katherine Mahler draws upon memories of time spent on the Great Lakes and Niagara River, serving as a metaphor for navigating the pandemic. This series began as a way to remember places and times from the artist's childhood in the Buffalo-Niagara region of New York and Ontario, Canada. Memory and maps, along with other wayfinding inspiration, speak to how we learn to find our way, literally and metaphorically and the guideposts and markers we need to navigate successfully from place and time.

The work for this show represents ideas about what becomes essential to know, what details are important to pay attention to, ob-

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