

Trout Fishing in America

July 15-August 27, 2017

Opening Reception: Saturday, July 15, 7-11pm

Dodie Bellamy

Ross Caliendo

Martine Gutierrez

Porpentine Charity Heartscape

Stefan Hoza

Matthew Kerkhof

Marlon Mullen

Willy Reed

Emily Jane Rosen

Christine Szeto

Paulino Martin and Alice Wong

But it wasn't completely over, for it took a while to get trout fishing in America off the clothes of the first-graders. A fair percentage of trout fishing in America was gone the next day. The mothers did this by simply putting clean clothes on their children, but there were a lot of kids whose mothers just tried to wipe it off and then sent them back to school the next day with the same clothes on, but you could still see "Trout fishing in America" faintly outlined on their backs. But after a few more days trout fishing in America disappeared altogether as it was destined to from its very beginning, and a kind of autumn fell over the first grade.

-Richard Brautigan, *Trout Fishing In America* (1967)

Richard Brautigan's first and highly abstract novel, *Trout Fishing In America*, eschews any real continuity between its disparate chapters, but characters and objects reappear throughout different stories and

settings. The titular phrase of “trout fishing in America” reoccurs as the name of a character, a hotel, an ambiguous residue, and the actual activity of fishing.

Trout Fishing in America, the exhibition, takes a similar approach to a curated group show. It features a diverse group of artists: painters, poets, performers, computer game programmers, sculptors, and writers, some working outside their assigned mediums or taxonomies. Which one best fits the mold of an artist? This question is as fraught as which of Brautigan’s esoteric referents is the “true” trout fishing in America. Objects and ideas reoccur throughout the exhibition, but they reject the thematic couplings and narrative of most group shows.

If there is a goal to this exhibition, it is to break down the barriers of nouns, pronouns, verbs, and adverbs society gives us to mark the boxes of, yes, “this” is art and yes, this is what “this” looks like. The work in this exhibition does not wish to clarify a position, but to slowly tease out a position through various, dissonant artistic voices. It is not unlike casting out onto the river and catching one fish and several twigs, and being content with those results.

Dodie Bellamy writes genre-bending works that focus on sexuality, politics, and narrative experimentation, challenging the distinctions between fiction, essay, and poetry. Her most recent collection is *When the Sick Rule the World*, from Semiotext(e), 2015. In 2014 she published *The TV Sutras* with Ugly Duckling Presse, which Norman Fischer has described as “part porno, part memoir (maybe), part spiritual teaching (probably not), part fiction.” Other books include *Cunt Norton*, the *buddhist*, *Academonia*, *Pink Steam*, *The Letters of Mina Harker*, and *Cunt-Ups*, which won the 2002 Firecracker Alternative Book Award for poetry. Her chapbook, *The Beating of Our Hearts*, was published as part of the 2014 Whitney Biennial. With Kevin Killian she edited for *Nightboat Books Writers Who Love Too Much: New Narrative 1977-1997* (2017).

Ross Caliendo (b. 1988, Pittsburgh) lives and works in Los Angeles, CA. He works primarily in the mediums of painting and music. Currently, he has been focusing on a body of work consisting of paintings with hand made snakes as frames. The work at this moment in time has been dealing with conceptual themes of transformation. Using snakes, butterflies, fruit, and other heavily mined subject matter to convey new symbolic perspectives from a common ground. He has been the Co-Curator of Secret Recipe Gallery, Los Angeles, and currently is the Co-Curator of Hel Gallery, New York City. He attended the Columbus College of Art and Design.

Martine Gutierrez (b. Berkeley) lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. She received her BFA from Rhode Island School of Design, in Providence, RI. She has recently exhibited at Anna Marra Contemporana Rome, IT, Contemporary Art Museum, Raleigh, NC, RYAN LEE Gallery, NY, and Boston University Art Gallery, Boston, MA.

Porpentine Charity Heartscape is a writer, game designer, and dead swamp milf in Oakland. Her work includes xenofemme scifi/fantasy, cursed videogames, and globe-spanning sentient slime molds. Porpentine exhibited at the 2017 Whitney Biennial, EMP Museum, and the National Gallery of Denmark, has been commissioned by Vice, the New Inquiry, and Rhizome and is a fellow with Sundance Institute, Creative Capital, and Tiptree.

Stefan Hoza (b. Columbus, Ohio) lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. His current work is made primarily through improvisation to freely investigate personal and aesthetic histories while challenging ideas of taste and painterly tropes. He graduated from the Columbus College of Art and Design in 2011 and attended The Yale Norfolk Summer Program in 2010. Has shown in Los Angeles, CA and NYC.

Matthew Kerkhof is an artist based in Vallejo, California. He holds a BFA from the University of Minnesota and an MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art. He was the founder and director of Loss in Translation, a project space in Vallejo, California and looks forward to opening 2001, also in Vallejo, in late 2017. His work has been shown nationally in California, Colorado, Florida, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Washington, Washington D.C., and Wisconsin, as well as internationally in Germany.

Marlon Mullen bases his paintings on found photographic images – mostly from lifestyle, news and contemporary art periodicals – which the artist uses as a departure point for his subsequent work. In the process of developing a painting Mullen's original magazine pages usually become obscured, or literally abstracted, where an image is subsequently reduced to a graphic schema of interlocking colors and forms.

Mullen is autistic or, put another way, he has autism spectrum disorder, and is for the most part non-verbal. It isn't entirely clear how much he can read in the same sense that you are reading this press release right now, but he certainly has his own understanding of meaning when it comes to words. Specifically regarding the content of his paintings, he has not verbally communicated at length his intent or fascination with the images that he copies. However, his paintings are sufficient in informing us of the nuances of what he sees. Marlon Mullen is represented exclusively by JTT in New York and Adams and Ollman in Oregon. Most recent exhibitions include Summer Exhibition, Sorry, We're Closed Brussels, Belgium, Marlon Mullen, JTT, NY, NY, and Fonds Duvel-Moortgat, MADmusée, Théâtre de Liège, Liège Belgium.

Willy Reed (b. 1988, San Francisco) is a Los Angeles based sculptor. He received his BFA from the California College of Art in 2015. His work has been part of exhibitions at Ratio 3 in San Francisco, 99¢ Plus in Brooklyn and The Oakland Museum of California. He has an upcoming solo exhibition at Guerrero Gallery in

San Francisco opening in August 2017. He is an establishing member of the avant-garde graffiti crew Drugs Crew.

Emily Jane Rosen is a video artist, performer and designer in Berkeley, CA. Her work deals with embodiment, improvisation, tactility and health, and her video practice more specifically can be described as an elaborately anxious comedic theatre.

She is currently in graduate studies in Body Conscious Design in the Department of Architecture at UC Berkeley, while training in the Alexander Technique. Her graduate research focuses on physiological and socio-cultural relationships to the built environment, particularly in classrooms.

She has exhibited or performed at Chin's Push, Pieterspace, Human Resources, Institute for New Feeling, and PAM Residencies.

Christine Szeto (b.1983, Oakland, California) is an outgoing personality around the studio. Passionate about fiber arts, Christine often brings in finished work from home. Christine shined as a runway model at Creative Growth's Beyond Trend fashion show, as she modeled her own and others' fanciful creations. Born in California to Chinese parents, Christine utilizes language and text as pattern often embroidering English and Cantonese translations. Other motifs within her fiber works include flower and animal designs. Her warmth and quirky sense of humor are reflected in her quilts and fiber sculptures.

Paulino Martin (b. 1968, Mexico) and **Alice Ung** are artists who work at Creative Growth in Oakland, CA.

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