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***Match of the Matriarchs: Donna Dodson***  
**October 3 - November 4, 2018**

**Featuring guest artists Daniel Meiom, Jennifer Shahade & Kledia Spiro**



**First Friday Reception:** October 5, 5-8pm  
7pm "Battle of the Beasts" performance by **Jennifer Shahade & Kledia Spiro**

**Second Sunday Concert:** October 14, 4-6pm featuring Mazumal Duo

**Reception and Artist Talks:** Saturday, October 20, 3-5pm with **Eric Sealine**

**First Friday Closing Reception:** November 2, 5-8pm  
7pm "Battle of the Beasts, Revisited" performance by **Kledia Spiro**

Boston Sculptors Gallery presents ***Match of the Matriarchs***, **Donna Dodson's** latest series of mysterious animal-human hybrid wood sculptures, on display October 3 through November 4, 2018. Featuring a sculpture group configured as a chess set, **Dodson's** increasingly well-known female forms are carved with humor, sensitivity, and attention to the interplay of woodgrain and color.

**Dodson** cites the genesis of her chess set in her solo show at New Bedford Art Museum in 2016. She explained, "I created five 'mermaids' inspired by the history of ship prow carvings. I wanted to do more with the series, so I set myself the challenge of making an entire chess set." This idea allowed her to build on the concept of sculptures that interact directly with each other, while reflecting on the interactions among species that have nothing to do with us humans.

**Dodson** delved into natural history books such as [Squid Empire: The Rise and Fall of the Cephalopods](#) by Danna Staff, [Octopus: A](#) by Sy Montgomery, and [Other Minds: The Octopus, the Sea, and the Deep Origins of Consciousness](#) by Peter Godfrey-Smith. "The existence of squid was discovered due to the scars on the sides of whales," **Dodson** noted. "This deep sea battle between the squid and the whale led me to create a team of cephalopods—octopus, squid and cuttlefish—battling against the cetaceans—orca, narwhal and elephant seal."

To learn about the game of chess, **Dodson** researched [Birth of the Chess Queen: A History](#) by Marilyn Yalom and [Chess Bitch: Women in the Ultimate Intellectual Sport](#) by

**Jennifer Shahade.** “The original chess set was composed of King, Vizier/General, and other male military figures,” **Dodson** explained. “The queen came onto the board around the same time that many powerful queens reigned in England, Russia and Spain.” **Dodson** reflected on that change, deciding, “My set is maternal—I am thinking about family matriarchies, the realm of power in women's lives, how women wield power and the bonds between women in families.”

**Daniel Meiom** is an Israeli-American filmmaker, visual artist, and new media producer. His projects include *XChess*, a web TV show about chess, *Misery Loves Comedy*, a pilot on stand-up comedians, and *Nowhere Else*, a TV drama for Israeli TV. His most recent film, *Camden/Love/Hate* tells the story of Camden, NJ through at risk high school students. He has exhibited in New York City, Saint Louis, and most recently, at the Dali Museum in St. Petersburg, FL. For his Boston debut, **Meiom** collaborated with **Jennifer Shahade** to create new work.

**Jennifer Shahade** is a two-time U.S. Women's Chess Champion, poker player, commentator and writer. She wrote [Chess Bitch](#) and [Play Like a Girl](#), and co-authored [Marcel Duchamp: The Art of Chess](#) and [Sinquefield Cup: Celebrating Five Years](#). **Shahade** is Senior Editor at [uschess.org](http://uschess.org), MindSports Ambassador for PokerStars, and a board member of the World Chess Hall of Fame. In ***Match of the Matriarchs***, **Shahade** will exhibit videos, photographs, and an interactive chessboard developed in collaboration with **Daniel Meiom** and **Donna Dodson**. Based on a 16th century misogynist chessboard created by a disgruntled gentleman when the Queen first appeared in the game, the new board uses misogynist language from online chess forums and social media, and invites audience engagement. **Shahade** will challenge an opponent to a chess match Friday, October 5 in a performance piece with **Kledia Spiro**.

**Kledia Spiro** creates videos, performances, installations, and paintings. Born in Albania, Kledia was a member of an Olympic weightlifting team. She uses weightlifting as a symbol of survival, empowerment, celebration, and as a vehicle for discussing women's roles in society, immigration, and times of war. Spiro has exhibited nationally, most notably at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Queens Museum, NY; SAIC Sullivan Galleries, Chicago; Museum of Art, University of New Hampshire; and the ProArts Gallery in Oakland, CA. Her videos and photographs will be exhibited in ***Match of the Matriarchs***. She will perform with **Jennifer Shahade** on Friday, October 5 at 7pm in “Battle of the Beasts” and again at the closing reception on Friday, November 2 at 7pm in “Battle of the Beasts, Revisited.”

***Match of the Matriarchs*** runs concurrently with ***Eric Sealine: Bodies of Work***

**For More Information and High Resolution Images Please Contact:**

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