

# T H E W A Y W E L I V E N O W

Daniel Mantilla

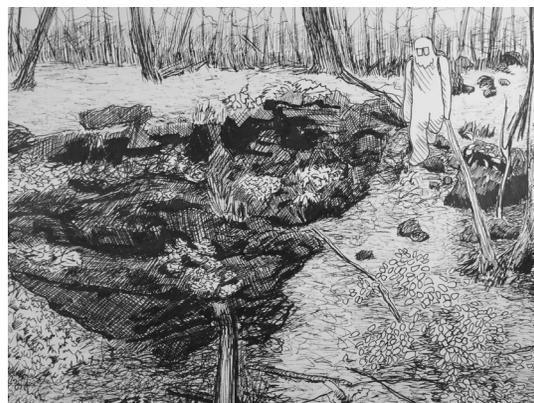
Julien Miller

Curated by Yeon Jin Kim

April 8 – June 4, 2023

Opening Reception: Saturday, April 8, 5-7pm

The Cluster Gallery, 540 President Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215



Our exhibition borrows its title from Anthony Trollop, not because of direct correspondence between its artworks and the thematics of Trollop's greatest novel, but because of the effort to embrace the fullness of human life and interaction during a complex time of change.

Daniel Mantilla and Julien Miller, in different ways, plot and construct situations and narratives that reflect everyday life paired with internal reflection; lived reality affected by dreams and fantasy - people dealing with life and with each other.

In Daniel Mantilla's works couples and other groupings of figures interact with each other and collaborate/compete to assemble or repair their gerry-built environments.

On rooftops and terraces, and in gardens or domestic spaces, rickety scaffolds and contraptions speak to the uncertainty and contingency of daily life. Ad hoc systems prop up unlikely structures, both social and physical. Our lives are prolonged restorations yet our efforts unexpectedly yield side effects of unlikely complexity and beauty.

Julien Miller's characters negotiate strange environments, languages and technologies in dream-like narratives. In handmade animations that take hundreds of hours to make and mere minutes to experience, time collapses upon itself while the psychological and metaphysical collide with the everyday. In one narrative a janitor cleaning up in a futuristic world finds an old camera and takes a picture of his own face.

Both artists employ a range of materials and imaging processes to create narratives that function as vehicles for reflecting on the conundrums of everyday life.

Highly personal and handmade, their works contain and combine the complex, confusing amalgam of input from which we try to distill a sense of meaning and direction in our lives.

Julien Miller is a painter/ animator from Fly Creek, NY. They currently maintain a studio practice in Queens making experimental handmade and digitally illustrated animations.

Daniel Mantilla is a Colombian-born artist whose practice consists of paintings, prints, drawings/ collages, and cut-outs motivated by ideas of transition and instability. He is based in Atlanta, Georgia.

Yeon Jin Kim is an artist/curator based in New York City and Binghamton.