

September 17 - October 29, 2021

The Poetics of Sculpture

Leah Aegerter

Louise Deroualle

Nori Pao

Sponsored by Anderson Ranch Arts Center

At the Carbondale Arts R2 Gallery
in The Launchpad (76 S 4th Street)

carbondalearts.com | 970-963-1680

Open weekdays 10am - 5pm & Saturdays 10am - 2pm

THE POETICS OF SCULPTURE

...there is no sculpture without the conscious manipulation of matter in space.

- Anne M. Wagner

“What Women Do, or The Poetics of Sculpture”

Through exploration and innovation of form and material, women artists of the 20th century reimagined the field of sculpture as something malleable and transcending definition. In an effort to create meaning out of matter, these feminists infiltrated the male-dominant studio space and galvanized a sculptural revolution whose boundaries are ever expanding.

Today, artists embrace a non-definition of sculpture, but what is sculpture without the considerations of material, gravity, and spatial relationships? What is sculpture without “the conscious manipulation of matter in space”? Named for the essay that inspired this collaboration, this exhibition features work by Roaring Fork Valley artists who engage with material as a way to contribute to the cannon of women in contemporary abstract sculpture.

LEAH AEGERTER

Biography

Leah Aegerter is an artist working primarily in object-based sculpture, furniture, and installation. She received a BFA in Sculpture from Rhode Island School of Design in 2017 and is the Studio Coordinator of Digital Fabrication at Anderson Ranch.

Artist Statement

The abstraction of queer and feminist narratives has always been central to my work, as I create objects with few ties to any recognizable, pre-existing forms in order to broaden the boundaries and definitions of intimate interactions. My pieces aim to challenge a traditional and easily accessible hetero-intimacy by performing or implying a relationship themselves, or asking the viewer’s participation in order to complete a system of desire. My sculptures are abstracted with elements of absurdity or surrealism and tend towards natural and fluid forms that evoke happenings outside of human control. Greatly influenced by magical realism, I create systems and scenarios that might pass in our reality but don’t truly belong here.

The works exhibited here are portraits of moments I capture and experience in the landscape. I am attracted to geological features as inanimate, genderless things whose transformative nature codes them with life. They confront what it means to be a human in the landscape and what it means to have a physical relationship with the rocks, sand, and dirt around me. Made and influenced by digital fabrication techniques, these sculptures hold the history of their original form as well as their digital transformation: The grid motif throughout the sculptures references the construction planes of 3D modeling workspaces and is contrasted with soft, sculpted, clay-like surfaces that speak to ancient human-made textures I encounter in the desert and the tenderness of my body encountering geology around me.

Learn more about Leah at leahaegerter.com

LOUISE DEROUALLE

Biography

Originally from Sao Paulo, Brazil, Louise moved to the U.S.A. in 2013 to pursue a Master's degree in Ceramics at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Louise is the Studio coordinator of the Ceramics Department at Anderson Ranch Arts Center, in Snowmass Village.

Louise exhibits nationally and has been awarded competitive residencies and fellowships, including the Roswell Artist-in-Residence and The Aspen Art Museum Fellowship.

Artist Statement

My work is an abstracted representation of me: my identity, the way in which I relate to others and understand the environment I am in. I use ceramic materials to create formal abstractions that reveal different facets—physical, experiential, emotional—of myself.

The artwork I create with this clay is influenced by the different cultural experiences to which I have been exposed and the way those interactions build my identity. Cultural and language barriers provoke a sense of displacement and generate a wide range of emotional reactions that shape my perception of and interaction with the outer world. These encounters can make me feel curious, allowing me to learn more about my own culture and my way of interacting with the environment around me, but other times frustration prevails, and I feel lonely and misunderstood. I translate these feelings into my objects through expressive surfaces created by the layering of ceramic materials. Like my own skin, the surfaces of my pieces are thin and fragile barriers between the internal and external world. And like skin, the cracks, blisters,

and wrinkles that texture the surfaces of my works record time and stories, veiling and yet revealing who we are. The shapes that carry these surfaces are evolving and becoming anthropomorphic. They represent myself and the relationships I cultivate around me.

Learn more about Louise at louisederoualle.com

NORI PAO

Biography

Nori Pao lives and works in Aspen, CO. She has recently participated in exhibitions at Albada Jelgersma, Amsterdam, NL; Priveekollektie Contemporary Art & Design, Heusden, NL; Stellar Projects (solo), New York, NY; SEPTEMBER, Hudson, NY; Harvey Preston Gallery, Aspen, CO; and Knauer Gallery, West Chester, PA.

Past honors include a residency at the European Ceramic Workcentre (EKWC) in Oisterwijk, NL; Artist-in-Residence, Anderson Ranch Arts Center, Snowmass Village, CO; an Artist Assistance Fellowship Grant, Minnesota State Arts Board, St. Paul, MN; and the National Patricia Roberts Harris Fellowship, Tempe, AZ. Pao received a MFA from Arizona State University and a BA from the University of Delaware.

Artist Statement

Nori Pao's work examines broad themes of time, memory, identity, reality, order and chaos through both a personal and psychological lens. Her aim: to occupy a space that allows

intuition, science, technology, alchemy, and magic to coexist.

Pao investigates these concepts through observing her own physical body and mind and how they relate to the larger landscape. Thoughts on location and place take form through references to topography, geology, and geography. Memories become witness marks in the same way that rocks and landforms become recorders of time.

The foundation of Pao's practice lies in developing ideas through intense material exploration and collaboration. She strives to recognize and embrace the unexpected rather than control an outcome—viewing it as evidence of her engagement with the material. Pao utilizes a variety of mediums—ceramics, drawing, digital fabrication, photography, and video. She is drawn to these modes of making because, in essence, they capture information. Recording moments in time, marks made by hand, the likeness of an object or place—there is a built in exploratory aspect to the working processes of these methods that she finds both exciting and limitless..

Learn more about Nori at noripao.com

R2 Gallery Committee Members

Staff: Brian Colley, Staci Dickerson, Amy Kimberly

Board Liaisons: Leah Swan

Non-staff: Lindsay Jones (Chair), Savanna LaBauve, Vanessa Porras, Kirk Robinson, Laura Stover, David Thickman, and Matt Vickers

Learn more about this exhibition and visit the space virtually at carbondalearts.com/exhibitions

Know Your Artist, Know Your Art

Carbondale Arts believes in the power of art and we know you do, too. There is a deep connection that happens when you purchase a piece of art, and getting to know the artist makes that connection even deeper. Carbondale Arts hosts over 10 art exhibitions every year. Find some art you love and dive in.

We have launched a [“Know Your Artist, Know Your Art”](#) campaign, as Carbondale Arts works to build relationships between artists and patrons. Inspired by the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) model of Investing in local food, this Community Supported Art movement promotes the investment of local artists making a living in and around the [Carbondale Creative District](#), where Carbondale Arts makes its home.

Acknowledgements

This exhibition is generously sponsored by Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Snowmass Village. For more than 50 years, Anderson Ranch Arts Center has been working to enrich lives with art, inspiration and community. Explore more at andersonranch.org.

Special thanks to David Thickman for gallery preparation assistance, and to Mathew Jinks for gallery lighting.