#ActForArt

An Exhibition of Original Artwork
at The Jacqueline Rose Gallery
The Canopy Hotel, Portland, Oregon

September 25 - October 26, 2020

September 17, 2020 [Portland, OR]

Converge 45 is pleased to announce #ActForArt, an exhibition of the original artwork featured in the city-wide #ActForArt Poster Campaign. The exhibition will be on view at the Jacqueline Rose Gallery, which is housed in the Canopy Hotel in Portland’s Pearl District. It will run from September 25 to October 26, 2020. The gallery is open 24/7 by ringing the front door bell.

#ActForArt features the work of 12 Oregon artists: Judy Cooke, Anna Fidler, Melanie Flood, Jessica Jackson Hutchins, Ariana Jacob, Chris Johanson, King School Museum of Contemporary Art (KSMoCA) student Jamal Smith (age 8), sidony o’neal, Jess Perlitz, Ralph Pugay, Sara Siestreem and Samantha Wall.

Converge 45 and #ActForArt curators, Meagan Atiyeh, Mack McFarland and Stephanie Snyder, designed the project as a way to advocate for the region’s outstanding artists and arts organizations, reminding us all how critical art remains to our lives. “With the #ActForArt project, Converge 45 is unequivocally stating that experiences with art and culture are fundamental to the health and prosperity of civic life for all of our communities. Those of us working or
piece now, in a moment of change and for a future we must build together.”
Mack McFarland.

As part of its commitment to supporting regional artists, proceeds from artwork sold at the exhibition will be split between the artists and the Nat Turner Project Relief Program for PDX Area Black and POC Artists. This relief fund provides small stipends to BIPOC artists in the Portland ecosystem, keeping community members afloat during this period of social and economic insecurity.

#ACTforART project goals:

• To inform the public of the value that artists bring to our understanding and appreciation of community and culture, especially in times of great difficulty and change.

• To encourage public engagement with and support for the city's artists, museums, galleries, and educational institutions, most of which are currently facing dire financial straits.

• To inspire people to buy regional artwork—the single most important way to support the livelihoods of artists, galleries, and the arts ecology while surrounding them with art of this time and place at home.

Since August 3rd, Converge 45 has distributed over 750 posters around Oregon. Many were placed in outdoor spaces, such as in business windows, like Debbie Thomas Real Estate, the Canopy Hotel, Alchemy Jeweler, Omnivore Design, and others. Posters were also installed at several cultural organizations: Portland Institute for Contemporary Art, Bullseye Glass, and the Chehalem Cultural Center in Newberg, Oregon.
About the Artists

Judy Cooke lives and works in Portland, Oregon. Cooke has a strong understanding of and connection to the genres of geometric abstraction and abstract expressionism. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts at Tufts University (Medford, MA) and a MAT at Reed College (Portland, OR). She has exhibited extensively and has been the recipient of numerous prestigious grants, including the Flintridge Foundation Award for Visual Art (Pasadena, CA), and the National Endowment for the Arts Visual Artist Fellowship. Her work is included in the collections of the Portland Art Museum (Portland, OR), Tacoma Art Museum (Tacoma, WA), School of the Museum of Fine Arts (Boston, MA), and Boise Art Museum.

KSMoCA The Dr Martin Luther King Jr School Museum of Contemporary Art (KSMoCA), is a contemporary art museum and social practice project inside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School, a Pre K - 5th grade public school in NE Portland, OR. Founded in 2014 by Portland State University professors Lisa Jarrett and Harrell Fletcher, KSMoCA connects public school students with internationally renowned contemporary artists through collaborative workshops, exhibitions, artists lectures and site-specific commissions. Students learn through experience about museum practice and careers in the arts by participating as curators, preparators, artists, gallerists,
Elizabeth Leach Gallery.

Anna Fidler lives in Corvallis, Oregon where she teaches studio art at Oregon State University. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting from Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, in 1995 and a Master of Fine Arts in studio art from Portland State University in 2005. Her work is in the permanent collections of the Boise Art Museum (Boise, ID), the Portland Art Museum (Portland, OR) and the Microsoft Corporation. She is currently working on a commission for the Eugene Symphony Orchestra in collaboration with the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art. Anna Fidler is represented by Charles Hartman Fine Art.

Melanie Flood is an artist based in Portland, Oregon. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (2001) in Photography from the School of Visual Arts in New York and a Master of Fine Arts (2017) in Contemporary Art Practice from Portland State University. Since 2008, she directs Melanie Flood Projects in Portland, OR. Her projects have been featured in Art in America, The New York Times, New York Magazine, Zingmagazine, and Photo District News, among others. She has had exhibitions at NADA Art Basel-Fourteen30 Contemporary in

MLK Jr. School community, PSU students, and a team of supporting artists. Eight year old Jamal Smith was selected by KSMoCA to participate in the Converge 45 #ACTforART Project.

Sidony O’Neal is an artist and writer from Sacramento, CA. Previous exhibitions include Sculpture Center (NYC), Fourteen30 Contemporary, and the Institute for New Connotative Action. Performances as a part of non-band DEAD THOROUGHBRED have been presented at PICA, Kunstverein Düsseldorf, Volksbühne Berlin, Performance Space New York, and If I Can’t Dance (Amsterdam). O’Neal’s writings have been published at Arts.Black and the journal of Women & Performance. Residencies include Banff Center, Creative Exchange Lab, and Arteles Center. O’Neal is the recipient of the 2020 Joan Shipley Award.

Jess Perlitz makes work focused on considering landscape and the ways in which we define and seek to recognize ourselves within it. Grappling with how space gets articulated, the projects take many forms: traversing performance, sculpture, and drawing. The work has appeared in a variety of venues such as playgrounds, fields, galleries, and museums, including the
Newspace Center for Photography in Portland, OR. Melanie Flood is represented by Fourteen30 Contemporary.

**Jessica Jackson Hutchins** lives and works in Portland, Oregon. Hutchins’s expressive and intuitive studio practice produces dynamic sculptural installations, collages, paintings, and large-scale ceramics, all hybrid juxtapositions of the handmade. Hutchins holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Oberlin College and a Master of Fine Arts from the Art Institute of Chicago. She exhibits internationally, and her work is in the permanent collections of the Hammer Museum (Los Angeles, CA), the Museum of Modern Art (New York, NY) the Whitney Museum of American Art (New York, NY) among others. Jessica Jackson Hutchins is represented by the Marianne Boesky Gallery.

**Ariana Jacob** holds a Master of Fine Arts in Art & Social Practice from Portland State University. She has exhibited work and organized events at Apexart and Smack Mellon in New York City, Beton Salon (Paris, France), the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art’s Time Based Arts Festival, the Portland Art Museum, and Gallery Homeland in Portland, OR, Southern Exposure (San Francisco, CA), the University of Utah, the Zacheta National Gallery of Art in Warsaw, Poland and the National Taiwan University Museum of Fine Arts in Taipei. Jacob has received several awards and residencies including the 2014 Joan Mitchell Foundation Fellowship, the 2014 Joan Shipley Fellowship from the Oregon Arts Commission, and the 2019 Hallie Ford Fellowship.

**Ralph Pugay** holds an MFA in Contemporary Art Practice from Portland State University and is a 2013 residency graduate of the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. Recent solo exhibitions were held at the Seattle Art Museum (Seattle, WA), Upfor (Portland, OR), Vox Populi (Philadelphia, PA) and FAB Gallery at Virginia Commonwealth University (Richmond, VA). Notable group exhibitions include Disjecta’s Portland2014 Biennial, and the 2012 CoCA exhibition (Seattle, WA). Pugay is the recipient of several awards, including the Seattle Art Museum’s 2014 Betty Bowen Award, an Individual Artist Fellowship from the Oregon Arts Commission (2014) and the Joan Mitchell Foundation.
in the NW Biennial at the Tacoma Art Museum, Disjecta’s Portland2012 Biennial, the Open Engagement Conference and the Discourse and Discord Symposium at the Walker Art Center.

**Chris Johanson**, a California-native, is a key member of San Francisco’s Mission School. Johanson’s work plays between the techniques of figuration and abstraction, as he sees these two modes of working as interconnected expressions of strong beliefs in environmentalism, compassion and peaceful co-existence. Now based in Portland, Oregon, he has exhibited widely in museums and galleries internationally. His work has been the subject of solo shows at the Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery (Saratoga Springs, NY); the Portland Museum of Art (Portland, OR); LA MoCA Pacific Design Center (Los Angeles, CA); and the Modern Institute (Glasgow, UK). Johanson has been featured in important group exhibitions including Glasgow International 2012 and the 2002 Whitney Biennial. He is represented by Mitchell, Innes & Nash.

**Sara Siestreem** (Hanis Coos and American) is from the Umpqua River Valley in southwestern Oregon. She graduated Phi Kappa Phi with a Bachelor of Science from Portland State University and earned a Master of Fine Arts with distinction from Pratt Art Institute. Her work has been shown in museums and figures in prestigious private and public collections nationally. She teaches studio arts at PSU and and Traditional Indigenous Weaving Practices for The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians. Siestreem serves as a consultant and freelance educator for museums and cultural groups regionally. Sara Siestreem is represented by Augen Gallery.

**Samantha Wall** is originally from Seoul, South Korea and immigrated to the United States as a child. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from The University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, and her Master of Fine Arts from Pacific Northwest College of Art (PNCA), Portland, OR. Her work has been featured in both solo and group exhibitions regionally and nationally. Wall is the recipient of awards and grants from organizations including the Oregon Arts Commission; Portland, Oregon’s Regional Arts &
and The Joan Mitchell Foundation. She was also a finalist for the Portland Art Museum’s Contemporary Northwest Art Awards 2016 and the winner of the Arlene Schnitzer Prize. Samantha Wall is represented by Russo Lee Gallery.

About the Curators

**Meagan Atiyeh** Through her years of management of the state’s Percent for Art program, Atiyeh has brought hundreds of objects into Oregon’s permanent art collection, from important collections of works by national and regional artists to complex site-specific commissions. She was recently named as Senior Advisor to The Ford Family Foundation that launched its critically important Visual Arts program in 2010 to help “Oregon’s most promising, established visual artists actively pursue their work and to enrich Oregon’s visual arts ecology.”

**Mack McFarland** is a cultural producer, educator, and recently appointed
included commissioned projects of new works from tactical media practitioners Critical Art Ensemble, Eva and Franco Mattes, and Disorientalism. He has also curated a review of Luc Tuymans’s printed works, a group exhibition marking the centennial of John Cage’s birth, and a comprehensive look at the process of the comic journalist Joe Sacco.

**Stephanie Snyder** is the Anne and John Hauberg Director and Curator of the Douglas F. Cooley Memorial Art Gallery, Reed College, a position she has held since 2003. Snyder graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Reed College and completed her graduate studies in Art History and Art Education at Columbia University. Snyder is the curator of numerous exhibitions. In 2010, Snyder received a Curatorial Research Fellowship from the Getty Foundation, and in 2014 she was a Fellow in the Getty’s Museum Leadership Institute. In 2013 she received an award for her critical writing from the International Association of Art Critics (AICA) and the CUE Foundation, New York. The author of numerous catalog essays and other writing projects, Snyder is a regular contributor to Artforum.com.

**About CONVERGE 45**

**Converge 45** is a citywide contemporary art platform based in Portland, Oregon. A nationally renowned curator is invited into conversation with local visual art institutions and independent collectives to develop a three-year program of presentations, exhibitions, and installations by regional and international artists. Converge 45 is committed to the promotion of the visual arts to local, national, and international audiences through public presentations and commissions of new work in the Pacific Northwest region of the United States. Converge 45 is committed to working with a diverse group of artists and interacting with a diverse community. We realize we can do more to support the voices of our Black community members and will identify ways to do so. Anti-racism is an ongoing commitment, which we pledge to enact.

**Our Esteemed Art Partners**

- The Cooley Gallery at Reed College
- Disjecta Contemporary Art Center
- Pacific Northwest College of Art
- Portland Art Museum
- Portland Art Dealers Association
- Portland Institute for Contemporary Art
- Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art at Portland State University

**Gratitude to 2020 Converge 45 Sponsors**

- Ford Family Foundation
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Converge 45 #ActForArt Exhibition at the Canopy Hotel

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Support
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