

## For Immediate Release

January 20, 2023

Clark College's Archer Gallery presents

### ***Homemaker***

an exhibit of artwork by

[Amy Bay](#), [Emily Counts](#), [Mark Takiguchi](#), and [Rachael Zur](#)

**Feb 15 – April 12, 2023**

**Opening Reception: February 15, 2023, 12pm – 5pm**

**Viewing hours: Monday - Saturday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.**



#### **Exhibition Statement:**

“Home sweet home”, “Home on the range”, “Home is where the heart is” – In these common colloquiums “Home” looms large as the ultimate place of comfort and refuge. But is it bound by four walls? If not, what makes a home? It is spiritual, personal, decorative, and sometimes political or commodified. No matter what major one studies in college, many of us take on the additional job of Home Maker. Innumerable lessons, stories, and recipes are shared in homes. This knowledge is passed from generation to generation, often by women. The residue of lives well-lived cling to spaces and objects. We share secrets, learn about ourselves, and dream at home. And using this definition it becomes clear that home is also the place where we are each at our most vulnerable. During the pandemic many people’s work lives also came home, expanding and blurring the boundaries of public and private lives. Suddenly we became self-conscious of what our home office said about us. Zoom staging became a very important part of interior design. The perfect, de-cluttered domicile was, for many people, an ever-present aspiration. How has art touched on themes of home in the past? As a stereotypically women’s domain, has the subject been overlooked? Images of interior spaces or still-lives might come to mind, but the decorative arts should be a part of this conversation. The patterns of rugs and wallpaper permeate our daily lives, create daydreams, and help shape our identity.

This is an exhibit of work by four artists, all of which explore these notions of home in their own unique ways. They also share an interest in the tension between representational and abstract images, as well as the value of a handmade mark and the physicality of materials. Amy Bay is a painter whose work starts from decorative sources full of complex social connotations and quickly expands into thick, richly colored meditations on her subject. Her paintings bring attention to the role of homemaker in society and gender stereotypes more generally. Emily Counts connects memory and identity, past and future, to common household objects through her ceramic sculptures. Her work is enchanting and lyrical, like a visual poem, giving us greater insight into her relationship with place. Mark Takiguchi paints from magazine sources such as Pottery Barn catalogues, and, in turn, examines and subverts notions of the perfect home. His work is painterly and formally inventive, while being critical of the commodification and capitalism wrapped up in notions of home. Finally, Rachael Zur’s work combines 2D and 3D materials in what she calls expanded paintings. Her work depicts living rooms that stretch over space and time and ultimately shed light on the multi-purpose and multi-generational nature of homes. All the mediums present in this exhibit (ceramics, paint, plaster, and found objects) champion the organic patina of life. All four artists blur the line between living and art. This intimacy with their subject leads to intuitive and often poignantly poetic moments for the viewers.

## Artist Biographies:



Amy Bay, *So Touching*, 2022, oil and wax on canvas, 48h x 46w in

### **Amy Bay**

<http://www.amybay.com>

*Amy Bay (b. Elkhart, IN) is a painter based in Portland, OR. Bay holds a BFA from The School of The Art Institute of Chicago and an MFA from Winchester School of Art. She also completed the London-based Turps Banana Correspondence Course for painters. Bay's heavily worked paintings use motifs and imagery that draw from decorative sources. She values the subjective, the emotional, error and mishap. She is interested in the mutability of the picturesque and conventional feminine imagery. Bay has exhibited her work at venues in the Pacific Northwest including Melanie Flood Projects, Adams and Ollman, Nationale and SNAG Gallery, as well as throughout New York City at Peninsula Art Space, The Painting Center, The Drawing Center, Printed Matter, Brooklyn Public Library, and The Bronx Museum of the Arts. She has shown internationally in group and solo shows and has been awarded grants and projects from The Rauschenberg Foundation, New York Foundation for the Arts, Stelo, the Regional Art and Culture Council, The Lower East Side Printshop, Dieu Donn  Papermill and Women's Studio Workshop.*

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Emily Counts, *Falling Loves Arrangement*, 2021, Glazed stoneware, 22 x 25 x 21 inches.

## Emily Counts

<https://emilycounts.com/Home>

*Emily Counts was born in Seattle, WA, where she currently lives and works. Drawing on craft traditions she creates ceramic and mixed media sculptures that explore connectivity, identity, memory, and merging a sense of the past with the futuristic. Her work has been exhibited nationally in institutions including the Museum of Arts and Design in New York, the Torrance Art Museum in California, at Oregon Contemporary in Oregon, and in Washington at the Bellevue Arts Museum. She received her BFA from the California College of the Arts and has received grants from Artist Trust, the Oregon Arts Commission, the Regional Arts & Culture Council, and The Ford Family Foundation. She was an artist in residence at Raid Projects in Los Angeles, Plane Space in New York, and a 2020 resident at the Varda Artists Residency Program in Sausalito, CA. Counts is currently represented in Washington by studio e gallery, and in Oregon by Nationale.*



Mark Takiguchi, *Dark Matter*, 38" X 65", Oil on Canvas, 2022.

## **Mark Takiguchi**

<https://marktakiguchi.com>

*Mark Takiguchi is an artist based in Portland, Oregon. He grew up in Chicago, Illinois and received an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He lived in San Francisco from 1994 until 2012 where he taught and held staff positions at the San Francisco Art Institute and the California College of the Arts. He has created installations, participated in collaborative projects and curated exhibitions. His art practice is currently focused on painting and drawing. He has exhibited nationally and has work in private collections in San Francisco, New York, Chicago, Portland, OR and Washington, DC.*

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Rachael Zur, *Leftovers & Afterglow*, 2021, Expanded Painting Materials: plaster gauze, acrylic, resin, acrylic, crackle paste, and spray paint, 22" [h] x 30 1/2" [w] x 1 1/4" [d].

## Rachael Zur

<https://www.rachaelzur.com>

*Rachael Zur's expanded paintings blend sculptural physicality with traditional painting techniques to depict objects found in living rooms. Her work is twice published in *New American Paintings*, as well as *Friend of the Artist*, *Under The Bridge Magazine*, and *Stay Home* by Stay Home Gallery and Residency. After 12 years as a stay at home mom, Zur resumed her education and completed her MFA in 2019 from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Since then she has exhibited her work throughout the United States, and has worked as a Program Mentor in the Low Residency MFA Program at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. In 2021, she drove her family of five across country in an RV to complete a residency at Stay Home Gallery while homeschooling her three children during their cross country camping adventure. Zur currently resides in the greater Portland Metropolitan area where she is a member of artist collectives *Carnation Contemporary* and *WAVE Collective*.*

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