

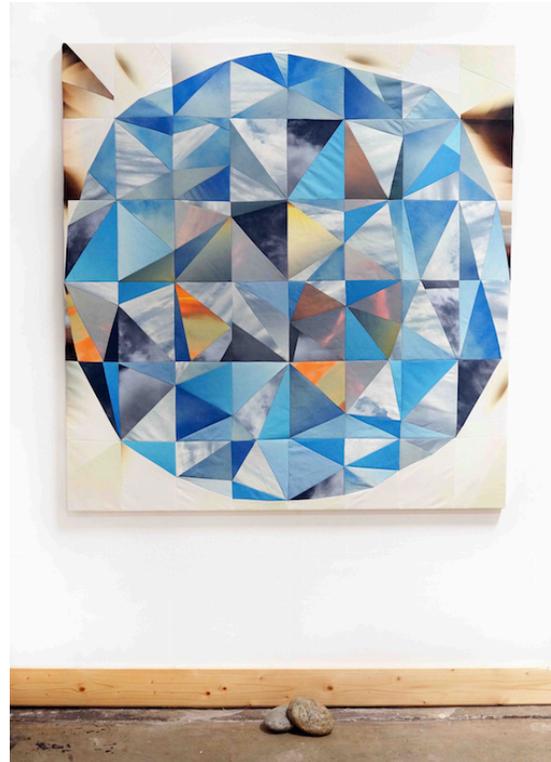
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I Look for Clues in Your Dreams

A Berkeley Art Center exhibition curated by Heather Marx
Six Bay Area Artists Explore the Intrinsic Mysticism of the American West
May 21 - July 17, 2016
Opening Reception: Saturday, May 21 6-8 PM



Chris Duncan, *Circle*, Oakland, 149" x 108", fabric, direct sunlight, 2014.



Amber Jean Young, *Sky Orb with Stones*, 54" x 53", stretched quilt top, linen, canvas, wood, thread and stones.

March 2, 2016, San Francisco, CA—**Berkeley Art Center Agility Projects** is pleased to present ***I Look for Clues in Your Dreams***, a group exhibition curated by Heather Marx, featuring Bay Area artists: **Leo Bersamina, Chris Duncan, Kristin Farr, Jenny Sharaf, Victoria Wagner** and **Amber Jean Young**. Through site-specific installations, sculpture, painting and mixed-media assemblages, the artists examine the elemental spirit of the American West. *I Look for Clues in Your Dreams* will be on view at the Berkeley Art Center from May 21 through July 17, 2016 with an opening reception on May 21 from 6-8PM, which will include a special performance by Victoria Wagner and 15 of her CCA students, invoking the overall spirit of the show.

I look for Clues in Your Dreams includes works that are informed by a spirituality that is influenced by the mythology of the American West and, specifically, Northern California. These six artists, who Marx also views as seekers and explorers, represent a continuation of the area's rich visual and social history, including elements of psychedelia, community and a reverence for the local landscape. Following the lead of the utopian idealism and the beauty and freedom of the 1960s and 70s, each exhibiting artist reshapes and re-vitalizes the world around them in the pursuit of visual magic.

Curator Heather Marx explains her desire to create an exhibition with the rich history of Northern California in mind:

By looking for clues in these artists' works, I hope to tell a story about this powerful and complex 'dream' of Northern California and its bewitching hold on our collective imagination.

Chris Duncan, Kristin Farr and Jenny Sharaf, will each create site-specific installations, embodying exhibition themes. Duncan will install a large fabric window in the high-ceilinged cupola of the gallery, incorporating symbols that speak of a utopian state, referencing mother earth and the cycles of the seasons. Farr's work will be featured outside the gallery walls, displaying a series of hexagonal paintings and a mural on the face of the building. Harnessing the colors and patterns associated with psychedelia, Farr's work is playful and exuberant. Sharaf's installation will occupy a corner of the gallery, incorporating vintage Playboy magazine pages (mapped with the artist's signature swirling of bright acrylic paint) into a large-scale and boldly-colored floor-to-ceiling design. Here, she explores California myth making and its relationship to femininity.



Victoria Wagner, *Sizzling Water*, 13" x 12" x 12", oil on redwood burl, 2015.



Leo Bersamina, *Grow (Stella-Thiebaud)*, 60" x 42", paint and driftwood, 2016.

Artists Leo Bersamina, Victoria Wagner and Amber Jean Young will address the Northern California landscape. Bersamina sources materials from beaches in Marin County to weave the abstracted driftwood sculptures that will be included in *I look for Clues in Your Dreams*. This particular series will incorporate an array of painted marks and hand etchings on the wood, creating a psychedelic, spirited quality while casting a dense spider web of shadows across the gallery walls and floor. Wagner will exhibit a group of 3 Woodrocks—harvested from fallen trees in Northern California forests—which explore transitions of abstracted sound and light inspired by the sun, music and vibrational pull of the forest. Young's work will present a series of large-scale quilts, paired with natural elements resting below the wall pieces. The artist includes rocks and sticks with her reconstructed quilts—which she stitches together using photographs she takes of the landscape—to create a connection or clue between the initial inspiration she felt in nature and its final shape in the form of the artwork.

About Heather Marx

For over 20 years, Heather Marx, Principal of Heather Marx Art Advisory, has lived, collected and worked with art in both academic and professional contexts. She received her Masters of Art History from the University of California, Santa Barbara and worked in the flourishing Los Angeles and San Francisco art scenes of the 90s. In 2001, she established what would ultimately become Marx & Zavattero, a leading contemporary gallery in San Francisco known for a strong, cutting edge program. HMxAA continues in this spirit, developing art exhibitions for organizations as well as providing clients with unparalleled access to the art world and an insightful eye.

About Berkeley Art Center

Berkeley Art Center (BAC) serves the diverse and creative citizens of this unique regional area, through the presentation of visual art exhibitions and related programs that are relevant, engaging and inspiring. A beautiful arts and crafts-style structure in Live Oak Park, North Berkeley with an outdoor sculpture patio featuring the work of renowned area sculptors, BAC has established itself as leading gallery presenting the work of talented regional artists in diverse media.

Hours: Wednesday - Sunday 11AM - 5PM

Admission: Free

Location: 1275 Walnut Street, Berkeley, CA 94709
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