

TIME MFA THESIS EXHIBITION 2018
MARCH 18 - APRIL 14

PAUL W. ZUCCAIRE GALLERY
STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

INTRODUCTION

These are potent times. Our voices need to be heard on so many fronts it is sometimes hard to know how to respond and where to channel our individual and collective energies. Sometimes, words fail. When this happens we need artists more than ever to give voice to our concerns, to challenge and provoke, to provide alternatives, to allow for dialogue.

Double Portrait, the exhibition that came down to make the gallery available for this show, was about dialogue. Nancy Friedemann-Sánchez and Charley Friedman have been in conversation for a long time, but their work stands on its own, two independent voices in dialogue with one another. Over the last three years, the individual artists represented in the MFA Thesis Exhibition have engaged in dialogue with their peers, with the faculty, with guest critics, and with the campus community. This year's thesis exhibition, entitled *Time*, is the result of those exchanges, along with many solitary hours in the studio, finding voice.

This exhibition is one of the final requirements of our three-year Master of Fine Arts degree program at Stony Brook. Through their close interaction with faculty, our graduate students hone their skills and develop the means to express their personal vision. They focus on their own work in individual studios on campus, and they have access to our excellent technical facilities (hybrid studios, foundry, kilns, darkrooms, presses). They also have the advantage of being part of a large, world-class research university with resources that include the historic Pollock Krasner House and Study Center. They are encouraged to increase their breadth of knowledge by engaging with faculty in Art History, Philosophy, Theatre, Music, History, and Women's Studies, among others, and they participate in the Department's affiliation with the Humanities Institute, the Consortium for Digital Arts, Culture, and Technology (cDACT), and the Simons Center for Geometry and Physics, among others. Finally, we are uniquely situated geographically to be near enough to New York City to allow students to engage with its renowned museums, galleries, studios, and cultural institutions. All of these opportunities have contributed to their success.

We wish to thank Karen Levitov, Director of the Paul W. Zuccaire Gallery, for her energy in making this exhibit possible, and for her fresh perspective on the world of contemporary art. We hope you find the work of these artists to be provocative, challenging and deserving of support.

Barbara E. Frank
Chair, Department of Art



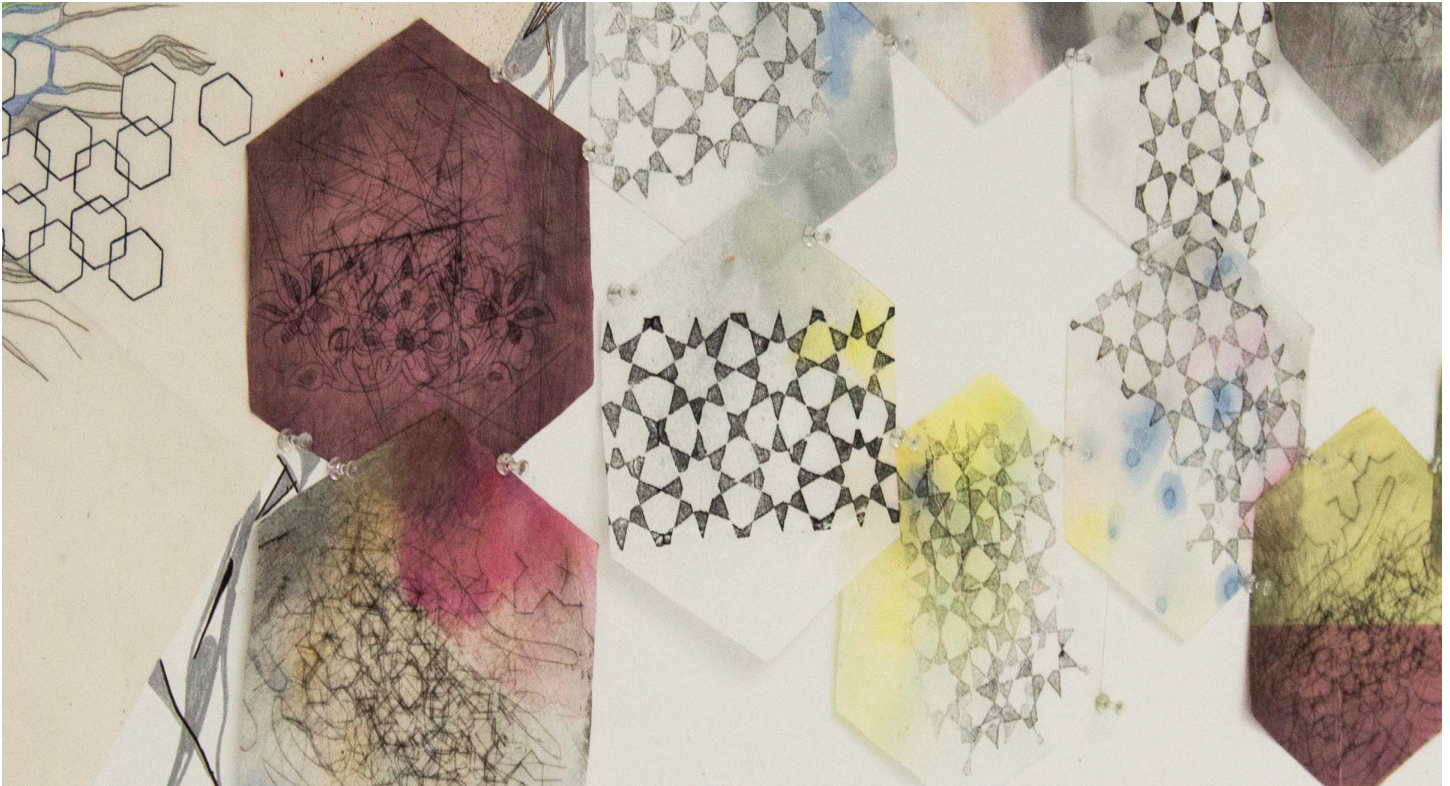
Ma, 2018

JASNA BOUDARD

jasna-boudard.com

My artistic practice explores visual nuances of movement, light, and space, focusing on the human body and its extensions. My work is often diaristic, revealing the experiential and interactive process of creation. I work intuitively by engaging and reacting to lived moments and use the camera and other mediums to produce “dream-like” reality. I frequently feature performers, capturing their bodies in motion and highlighting the beauty of flow. This practice has led me to transform my visual work into movement-based immersive experiences.

My thesis project is composed of video projections depicting classical South Asian dancers. The projections are arrested on the surface of sarees draped in the gallery space, creating a sound-and-image environment. Presented as a shadow dance, a meaningful visual language that I grew up with, these videos aim to reveal how the passage of time affects movement. In this immersive installation, the visitors walk through hallways of sarees to witness their own shadows moving along side the shadows of the dancers.



In-between, 2017

RAZIEH JAFARI

razieh-jafari.com

My experience of living in Iran and the U.S has adopted a liminal state about distance, culture, and stability. I never fully arrived and never fully left. As a result I see a passion to work experimentally and challenge myself by discovering new techniques. I never stay in the same method in art practice. The world I make reveals stories conveying the isolation and loneliness of a private experience that relives itself. I call it magical realism.

In my installation I use both painting and handcrafted work, elements that together disrupt the pristine flatness of the wall and the beauty of Islamic patterns. Then, I capture the uncertainties of what is reality, the disturbance of narrative as a coherent and orderly construct, the latent enveloping presence of haunting memories and their impact on the ongoing experience of life. The tension created between absence and presence, ruin and restoration, becomes a fragmental memory for the sense of vulnerability I experienced during my childhood in the war between Iran-Iraq, and also after immigrating to the United States.



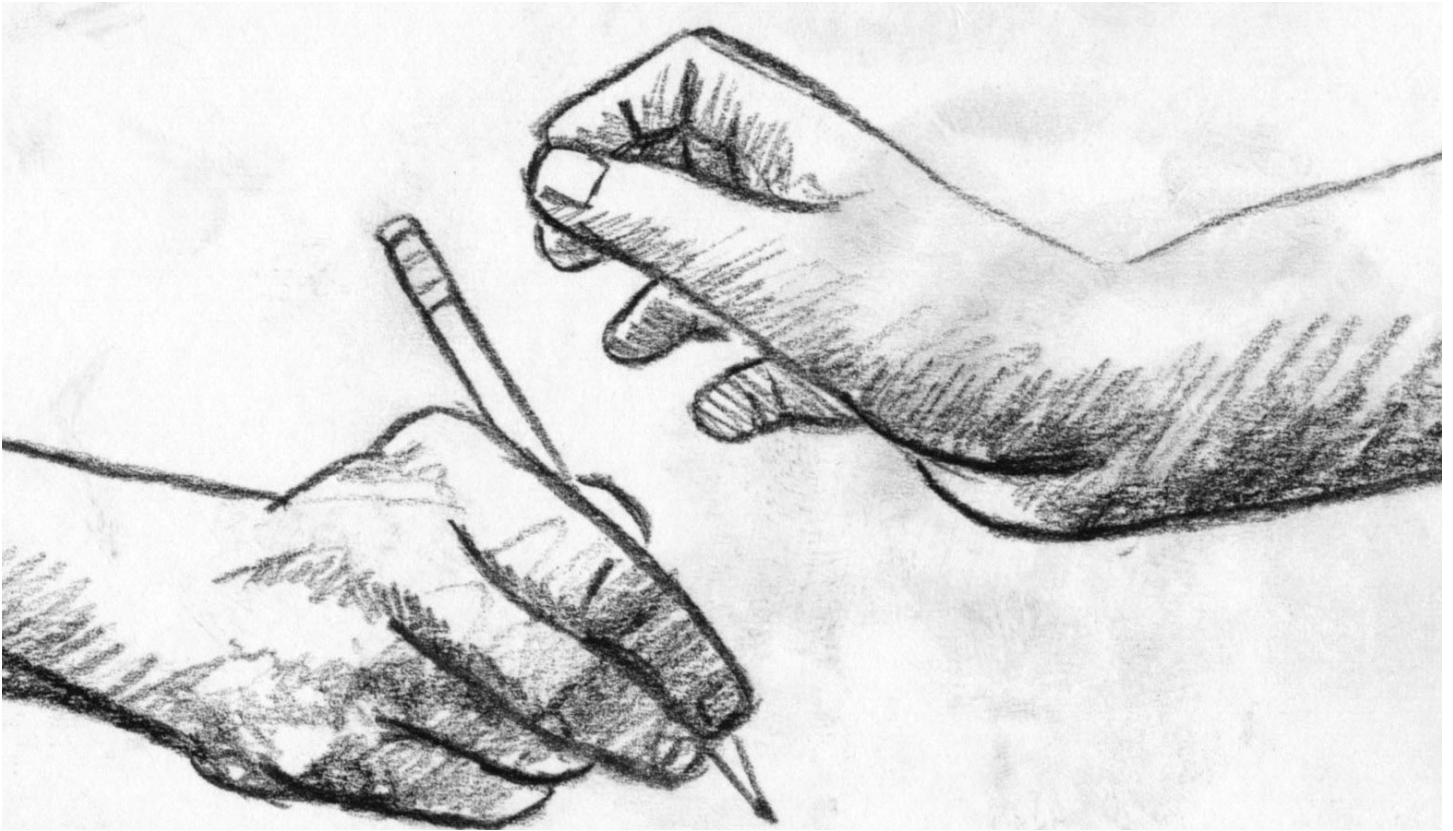
Coexist, 2018

KARINE FALLENI

kfalleni.com

My practice is an inquiry into recording a visual trace of my physical movement in space. I am interested in engaging with architectural structures through intuitive mark making. Seeking to map my immediate reactionary movement, the marks become notations or documentation of my presence. The finality is a capture of time.

This is a site-specific project, original to its space. It was important to me that I create a new work bridging both my human body and the architectural body of the gallery, working with and responding to the existing dimensions. This is a seven-day installation, each day building on each other adding a new passing of time. What you are seeing is a week's worth of record. Although initial plans were made in terms of materials and basic layout, the marks and their placement could not truly be planned ahead of time as the space dictates the result. A mark cannot exist without the space.



Commitment, 2018

JUSTIN ROXO

justinroxo.com

Choosing between our work and our family is like killing half of ourselves. The balance between work and relationships is difficult because both of them help define who we are. My love may have my heart but my work has my mind. Who are we if we aren't free to pursue both? The struggle to balance between these two identities makes us have to choose one or the other. There is a guilt for neglecting one side of you. Over time we begin to resent having to make the choice.

My animations allow me to confront my own personal experiences. In this animation, I'm trying to question who I am and if the path I took to get here is the right one. My animation discusses the struggle to balance a relationship with responsibility. I'm interested in how pursuing one of these ideas destroys the other. The struggle to choose one over the other makes it impossible to have either.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Time is the culminating embodiment of the intensive three-year MFA program at Stony Brook University. I would like to thank the artists, Jasna Boudard, Karine Falleni, Razieh Jafari and Justin Roxo, for the process of creating and presenting their compelling and beautiful work.

My gratitude to Professor Barbara Frank, Chair of the Department of Art, and Professor Nobuho Nagasawa, MFA Program Director, for their contributions to this exhibition. I also want to express my appreciation to the Staller Center for the Arts staff, especially Alan Inkles, Director, and Samantha Clink, Gallery Associate, and our student gallery assistants.

The 2017–2018 Paul W. Zuccaire Gallery exhibition schedule is made possible by a generous grant from the Paul W. Zuccaire Foundation. Additional funding has been provided by Suffolk County and the Friends of Staller Center. We are extremely grateful to our sponsors for helping us present our exhibitions and events to our students and faculty as well as to the local and regional community.

Karen Levitov
Director and Curator

EVENTS

RECEPTION

March 24, 6–8 pm

ART CRAWL

March 21, 3–5 pm

Starts at Melville Library

SALON SERIES

March 21, 12 pm, Karine Falleni

March 28, 12 pm, Jasna Boudard

April 4, 12 pm, Razieh Jafari

April 11, 12 pm, Justin Roxo

All events are free and open to the public.

GALLERY HOURS & INFORMATION

Monday – Friday 12–4 pm, Saturday 7–9 pm
Also open during Staller Center performances and films.
Free admission.

631-632-7240 | ZuccaireGallery@stonybrook.edu

   <http://ZuccaireGallery.stonybrook.edu>

The 2017–2018 Paul W. Zuccaire Gallery schedule is made possible by a generous grant from the Paul W. Zuccaire Foundation. Additional funding is provided by Suffolk County and the Friends of Staller Center.



Paul W. Zuccaire
GALLERY

STALLER
CENTER FOR THE ARTS



Stony Brook
University