



**Available online, May 17, 2020**

## **Curatorial Statement**

This thesis exhibition is the culmination of fourteen obsessions. Over the course of a year-long development of our artistic practices we have formed our own truths, and we present them to you with care and conviction.

To develop an artistic truth requires something apart from and beyond the act of truth-telling. It requires a care beyond the sensible, beyond the expected, a fixation that at times might veer into the absurd. It is through unconventional means that an artist's truth is formed. Diasporic solitude, queer love, a community garden, family histories, a love affair with concrete, personal meditations, ways to go fast; the list goes on. These are our truths, and these are the ideas we present to you in full sincerity. We tell you stories to endear you to our worlds, to pull you into silenced and forgotten histories. We invite you to the spaces we reside in, or the ones we once occupied.

Listen, take a deep breath, soak up what we have to share. There is likely a simpler way to tell you our stories, but we are artists and we strive to go beyond. We invite you to intimately explore these artworks, and those who produced them.

## **Addendum**

This exhibition came to life in the midst of the COVID-19 2020 global pandemic. It is the product of the labors of love, passion, and creativity that the SMFA 2020 Senior Thesis cohort cultivated with one another. We are happy to offer this exhibition as a testament to the community and connectivity we shared while navigating journeys of intense change; whether they be the pursuit of building a creative process, graduating from a prestigious university, or weathering socio-political crises.

## **Participating Artists**

Sam Agnew, Ariel Akumanyi, Badger Antoniou, Sam Helwig, Aidan Huntington, Dan Fisher-Berger, Zoe Lober, Pat Mahaney, Margot Mitchell-Nockowitz, Michaela Morse, Beca Piascik, Jake Rochford, Halley Sun Stubis, Jhona Xaviera

## **Senior Thesis Program & Exhibition**

SMFA students in their final year of study have the option to apply to the Senior Thesis Program. Thesis students participate in a year-long journey of research, writing, and art-making centered around critical dialogue with peers, faculty, visiting artists, and arts professionals. For those students who are accepted, this program acts as a capstone to the undergraduate experience, helping them to assess the progress they've made and clarify the directions they'll take next. Students work closely with dedicated Senior Thesis faculty as they plan, create work for, and mount a final public exhibition. Along the way they cultivate skills in the planning and development of ambitious projects, form bonds with their classmates, refine writing and professional presentation skills, all while honing their concept and craft. The professional practices developed during Senior Thesis serve as a platform for the development of an ongoing, independent art practice.

### **About the Galleries**

Housed within a research university and an art school, the Tufts University Art Galleries engage with artists, scholars, and works of art to provoke discourse around cultural and social contexts. Through exhibitions, programming, research, and collecting, we create a pedagogical platform for the Tufts community and wider publics.

### **Aidekman Arts Center / Medford**

40 Talbot Avenue, Medford  
Tues-Sun, 11AM-5PM. Open late for events  
Tisch Family Gallery  
Koppelman Gallery

### **SMFA at Tufts / Boston**

230 The Fenway, Boston  
Mon-Sat, 10AM-5PM, Open late for events  
Barbara and Steven Grossman Gallery  
Mrs. E Ross Anderson Auditorium