

Women's Caucus for Art Concept Proposal: *INQUESTigation*

We interpret science as a form of study that applies structures of knowledge to gain more cognizance of our world and its existing phenomena. Unlike pure science, however, the intersection of art and science oftentimes functions as a means to investigate knowledge systems through more tactile and intuitive processes so as to extract meaning. Not unlike scientists - artists are innate thinkers, researchers, creators, and observers that look to apply at once open or finite systems of exploration in order to research, test, document, and present their conclusive findings.

An underlying objective of *INQUESTigation* is to create alternate perceptions and experiences of our realities through a myriad of aesthetic approaches. This exhibition thus represents a curation of approximately ten to twenty-five women artists nationwide that intends to elicit a shared, collective voice on this vast and probing theme; all of the artists chosen sustain creative practices that engage science on varying levels whilst conjointly evincing a common spirit of experimentation. In illuminating these women's divergent perspectives, *INQUESTigation* aims to avow varied interpretations in an attempt to not be bound by any predominant method or field of interest; rather, it offers polymorphic readings on the subject. Inquiries range from: evolutionary science, new ecologies and biologies, time, identity, and memory, macrocosms and microcosms, and spatial experiences. Deriving from an authentic place that is repeatedly rooted in palpable, materials-based inquests into subject matter, a well-founded and innate interconnectedness exists among the intended works. *INQUESTigation* is an exhibition curated by the Monmouth Museum in collaboration with the National Chapter of the Women's Caucus for Art.

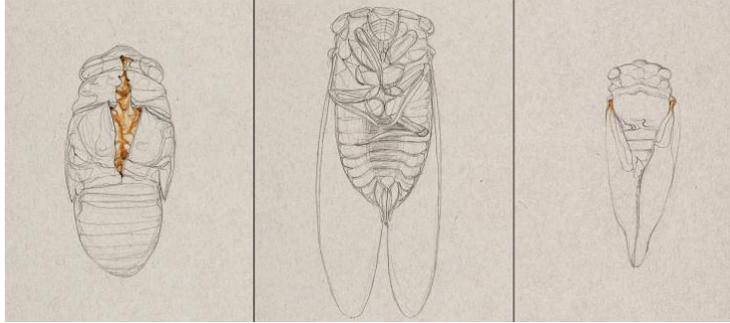
INQUESTigation

New Ecologies + Biologies
Macrocosm + Microcosm
Time + Identity + Memory
Indexing + Classifying
Spatial Experience

New Ecologies + Biologies



Sante rolling a birthday tart, 2020, acrylic on paper, plastic drape, 23 x 30 in



Altered, 2020, graphite pencil on paper

Christina Batipps

Christina Batipps' work explores the impact of the climate crisis on the life cycles of certain plant and animal species as well as the impact of these changes on our routines year after year. She uses her paintbrush to talk about climate change on a broad level with a focus on the value, habits, functions, and beauty of specific species.



Wax Flora: Blue Wax 1 (Photograph)



Wax Flora: Purple Wax 4 (Photograph)

Melissa Fleming

Inspired by nature, Melissa Fleming works at the intersection of art and science. She is both an environmental communicator and visual artist. Her work has been exhibited and collected internationally and is largely an exploration of the transient and often unseen aspects of the natural world. An interdisciplinary education, including history, art, and science has taught her to look for interconnections across various fields of study. Researching the ways art and science interact, she has presented at a variety of venues, including national and international conferences for both art and science.

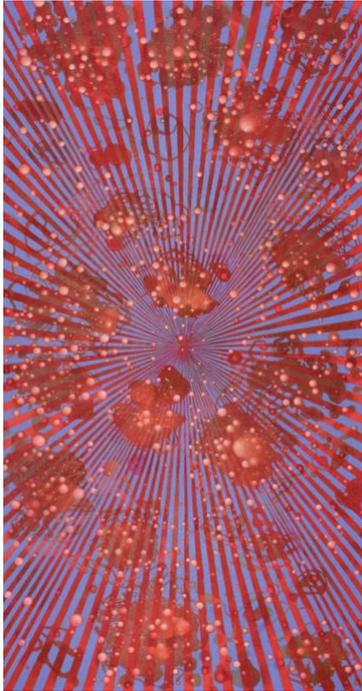


Porosity, cotton thread, mixed media

Ann Rowles

From 2004-2013 I cared for my elderly, formerly independent mother. Out of this experience, I created my “Contortions” series, including “Porosity,” a crocheted spine-like form reflecting the ravages of osteoporosis, and “Noose,” a crocheted form suggesting the digestive tract. The health conditions that most concerned her became a topic for my work. Crochet is a portable media I could carry with me to doctor’s appointments and hospital bedsides. It references the work of my great-grandmother who taught me to crochet as a child.

Macrocosm + Microcosm



Apocalypse, acrylic on canvas, 36 x 18 in



Portal, 2020, acrylic on canvas, 18 x 24 in

Anne Rynearson

Liminal Realities + Enigmatic Constructs is an exploration into concepts and narratives related to nature as a transcendent state represented in reciprocal microcosmic and macrocosmic form. The concept is inspired by intersecting interests in cosmology, philosophy, myth, mysticism and symbolism which share themes involving non-ordinary experience, shifting realities and altered states of perception, and fantastic journeys or destinations.



Aerial, textured encaustic, 12 x 12 in

Ally Richter, PhD

A retired scientist and engineer, Ally Richter is a person of many talents. Richter is best known of late for her award-winning textured encaustic artworks. She often uses color and textural concepts to challenge the imagination and invoke an emotional response. She constantly searches, challenges, and experiments with new ideas in this ancient art process.

Time + Identity + Memory



August, canvas and stretcher, canvas remnants

Doni Silver Simons

Time has been the central focus of Simons's work for over three decades. She calls herself a chronicler of time, identity, and memory, painstakingly marking the moments of our lives. Her minimal canvases appear like ancient scrolls or calendars. Many of the canvases are slashed, revealing a series of vertical lines serving as both physical and metaphorical portals to other dimensions.

Indexing + Classifying



Cascade, Index, 2017, Graphite, punctured drawing on parchment, convex glass



Cascade, Index, (Detail)

Tanya Chaly

Chaly's creative practice examines ideas of the natural world: the history of natural science, notions of nature and its fetishization, and the indexing and classifying of the wilderness.

Spatial Experience



Place, monofilament, eyehooks, wood frames, dimensions variable

Andi Steele

Alteration of space forces people to look at their spaces in new ways, to slow down and become aware of things previously unseen. Steele's works interfere with existing spaces, shifting our perception and interaction to focus attention on our surroundings; what already exists, how we interact with it, how it changes. Her site-specific works use monofilament fishing lines to divide existing spaces, altering appearance and function. Viewers are subtly directed through space, invited into some areas, blocked from others. The monofilament heightens changes in perception by distorting visual depth.



Continuum, 2018, acrylic globes, netting

Monica Wyatt

Wyatt is an alchemist with a focus on preservation. "My dad is a physicist-inventor, and as the weekend janitor and chief bottle washer, I was surrounded by test tubes, lasers, Petri dishes, and other laboratory wonders. I would collect found and broken knickknacks and fashion them into odd keepsakes, sometimes within glass Petri dishes or test tubes from my dad's lab."