

DIANE ROSENSTEIN GALLERY

Beautiful Peace On Earth: Selections from Creative Growth

Curated by Ginger Shulick Porcella

July 15 – August 26, 2023

Opening Reception: Saturday, July 15th, 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Diane Rosenstein Gallery is pleased to present *Beautiful Peace On Earth*, a group exhibition featuring seventeen artists from the Creative Growth Art Center in Oakland, California. Since 1974, Creative Growth, a non-profit studio space and gallery, has supported artists with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Their programming is guided by the principle that art is fundamental to human expression.

Curated by Ginger Shulick Porcella, *Beautiful Peace On Earth* explores visual language as universal communication. The nearly one hundred paintings, sculptures, video, and works on paper will reveal the breadth of work created by a renowned group of self-taught Bay Area-based artists. Artists exhibited are John Hiltunen, Nathaniel Jackson, Susan Janow, Franna Lusson, Dwight Mackintosh, John Martin, Dan Miller, Donald Mitchell, Latefa Noorzai, Tony Pedemonte, Barry Regan, William Scott, Nicole Storm, Monica Valentine, Ron Veasey, Alice Wong, and Ying Ge Zhou.

The exhibition title is inspired by a William Scott film that will be shown in the gallery. William Scott imagines alternative realities that are rooted in his fundamental belief of positive human transformation. We will also present paintings and drawings by Scott, whose work was recently included in *Black American Portraits*, curated by Christine Y. Kim and Liz Andrews at LACMA (2021). A retrospective, *William Scott*, was on view in Sweden, at Malmö Konsthall (2022), having traveled from Studio Voltaire, London (2021).

We are also delighted to present the Los Angeles debut of Nicole Storm, an abstract painter who favors vibrant hues and incorporates many layers of washes. The peripatetic nature of her process is the work itself – she moves seamlessly between mark making, working, and re-working a surface. Storm's inaugural solo was a 2021 installation at White Columns in NYC. We will present paintings recently exhibited in *Creative! Growth!*, curated by Matthew Higgs, at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

Dan Miller's gestural compositions overlay words and imagery that build on abstraction. A prominent 'Outsider' artist, Miller works in a variety of media and employs language as his

DIANE ROSENSTEIN GALLERY

fundamental subject and departure-point. He was notably included in *Viva Arte Viva* at the 57th Venice Biennale (2017); and has received three solo exhibitions with Diane Rosenstein Gallery. On view in *Beautiful Peace On Earth* are Dan Miller's recent large-scale works on paper and selected embroidered textiles.

This presentation will also feature rare works on paper by Dwight Mackintosh, who was an artist-in-residence at the Creative Growth Art Center until his death in 1999. Mackintosh centered his work around his experience with institutionalization, and began his artmaking later in life, with distinctive, kinetic linework characterized by repetitive flowing text and loose figuration. Dwight Mackintosh's work is in the permanent collection of the Studio Museum In Harlem; and he received a retrospective, *Véhicules*, at the Collection de l'Art Brut in Lausanne, Switzerland (2013).

Beautiful Peace On Earth is curated by Creative Growth's new Executive Director Ginger Shulick Porcella. Recently, as Chief Curator at MOCA Tucson, Porcella curated acclaimed exhibitions such as: *Amir H. Fallah: Scatter my Ashes on Foreign Lands* (2020); *Dazzled: OMD, Memphis Design and Beyond* (2019); and *Blessed Be: Mysticism, Spirituality and the Occult in Contemporary Art* (2018).

The works on view will invite celebration and engagement as well as contemplation and introspection, revealing the profound emotional landscapes within each artist and their work. The exhibition will run through August 26, 2023, celebrated by a closing reception featuring a screening of artist Cheryl Dunn's film "Beyond I Wanna Go," documenting ten years of Creative Growth's iconic "Beyond Trend" fashion show. Fashions designed by Creative Growth artists will be on display.

Artist biographies are below:

John Hiltunen (USA, 1949 – 2020) created collages, which typically collided animal and human subjects, mostly derived from fashion and natural history magazines. Recognized for his uncanny sense of humor, Hiltunen's collages are renowned and widely exhibited, including a solo exhibition at Good Luck Gallery, Los Angeles (2017). He was included in *Outside*, Karma, Amagansett, NY, curated by Matthew Higgs (2016); and *John Hiltunen +1*, organized by Matthew Higgs (2012), Paule Anglim Gallery, San Francisco. Hiltunen received the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Biennial Award (2013). In 2016, a monograph was published by Books for All Press.

DIANE ROSENSTEIN GALLERY

Nathaniel Jackson's (USA, b. 1998) paintings and works on paper are a fantastical display of love stories and epic battles through expressive linework and patterning of figures. He often depicts magical monsters inspired by iconic comic strips and images of Godzilla. This exhibition is his debut in Los Angeles.

Susan Janow (USA, b. 1980) is a multimedia artist whose practice is meticulous and introspective. Her hand drawn grids on paper mirror her textiles and collages that focus on a mediative state of artmaking. Her works on paper are in the permanent collection of the Centre Pompidou, Paris. She is also recognized for her video work, and 'Questions?' 2018, is in the permanent collection at the Brooklyn Museum, NY. Last year, Janow received a solo exhibition, *If I Were a Queen*, at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Indiana and was included in *Shine Light on an Owl's Face*, Walter Maciel Gallery in Los Angeles (2022).

Franna Lusson (USA, b. 1952): At the core of Franna Lusson's work is the immediacy of drawing captured through swift and subtle movements of wildlife (or a human subject) in a state of rest. Lusson's drawings were exhibited in *Visual Oasis: Works from Creative Growth*, Capital City Arts Initiative, Carson City, NV (2018); *Different and Special*, Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art, Ansan-si, Gyeonggi-do, S. Korea (2012); *Create*, BAMPFA, Berkeley, CA (2011); and in presentations at the Outsider Art Fair and NADA Miami. Lusson's work is in the permanent collection of the Woodson Art Museum, Wausau, WI.

Dwight Mackintosh (USA, 1906 -1999) was an artist-in-residence at Creative Growth for the last twenty years of his life, having begun his artmaking at the age of 72. Recently, his drawings were included in *Gesture of Lines*, Tokyo Shibuya Koen-dori Gallery, Tokyo (2022). His work was shown in *Create*, Berkeley Art Museum (BAMPFA), Berkeley, CA (2011), *Chromatic: 35 Colorful Years of Creative Growth*, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco (2009); among others. His work is in the permanent collection of the Studio Museum In Harlem, NY; Centre Pompidou, Paris; the American Folk Art Museum, NYC; Madmusée, Liège, Belgium; and the Collection de l'Art Brut in Lausanne.

John Martin's (USA, b. 1963) drawings, ceramics, and woodwork synthesize his memories of a family farm in Mississippi with his modern life in Oakland, CA. Solo exhibitions include *John Martin*, pt.2 Gallery, Oakland, CA (2021); *John Martin's Toolbox*, Institute 193, NYC (2018); and *John Martin Photography*, SFMOMA Artists Gallery, San Francisco (2017). Recently, his work was exhibited in *Creative! Growth!*, curated by Matthew Higgs, at the Kohler Arts Center, WI (2022-23); *Can't Beat California*, Golestani Gallery, Düsseldorf, DE (2021), the Duvel Moortgat Fund, Madmusée, Liege, BE (2016); and *Exhibition #4*, Museum of Everything, London (2011).

DIANE ROSENSTEIN GALLERY

Dan Miller (USA, b. 1961) works in a variety of media, including drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, and printmaking. Miller's painted works on paper were presented in *Viva Arte Viva*, 57th Venice Biennale, IT (2017). He's received solo exhibitions in NYC at White Columns, Andrew Edlin Gallery, and Ricco/Maresca Gallery, NYC, and in Los Angeles at Diane Rosenstein Gallery. His work was recently exhibited in *Creative! Growth!*, curated by Matthew Higgs, at the Kohler Art Center, WI (2022-2023). Selected museum group exhibitions include *Create*, BAMPFA, Berkeley, CA (2011); *Exhibition #4*, The Museum of Everything, London, UK (2011); *Dan Miller and Judith Scott: Creative Growth*, curated by Matthew Higgs, The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT (2013), *Different and Special*, Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art, Ansan-si, Gyeonggi-do, S. Korea (2012). His work is in the permanent collection of MoMA, NYC; the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.; Centre Pompidou, Paris; the Folk Art Museum, NYC; BAMPFA, Berkeley, CA; the Madmusée, and the Collection de l'Art Brut, Lausanne, CH.

Donald Mitchell's (USA, b. 1951) work consists of idiosyncratically crosshatched lines which reveal faces and forms in each composition. Mitchell's drawings are tightly composed, graphically sophisticated displays of crowded figures. His work was included in *Vibrant*, Nina Johnson Gallery, Miami, FL (2021); *Can't Beat California*, Golestani Gallery, Dusseldorf, DE (2021); *Creative Growth Art Center: Selections from the Collection*, Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art, Chicago (2022-2023); *Faces and Figures in Self-Taught Art*, The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Poughkeepsie, NY (2014); and *Vis-à-vis*, Andrew Edlin Gallery, NYC (2015), among others.

Latefa Noorzai (Kabul, Afghanistan, b. 1960) makes elegant portraits, painted with stark outlines, rendered with immediacy. Her works transcend linguistic and cultural boundaries. Noorzai is included in Hannah Reiger's Art Brut collection in Vienna.

Tony Pedemonte (USA, b. 1954) received the 2021 Wynn Newhouse Award for his elaborate mixed media sculptures, which he envelops in colorful yarn. His work was included in *Gesture of Lines*, Tokyo Shibuya Koen-dori Gallery, Tokyo, Japan (2022); *Vibrant*, Nina Johnson Gallery, Miami, Florida (2021); *Spotlight*, Calvin-Morris Gallery, New York (2016); and a solo exhibition, *Tony Pedemonte*, Aesop, San Francisco, CA (2018).

Barry Regan (USA, b. 1956) is best known for his repetitive and circular motifs that are methodically filled in with a polychromatic range. His painted works are often created along a continuous roll of paper that results in an extended vertical painting. Regan was included in *Can't*

DIANE ROSENSTEIN GALLERY

Beat California, Golestani Gallery, Dusseldorf, DE (2021) as well as three exhibitions at the Creative Growth Art Center gallery in Oakland, CA.

William Scott's (USA, b. 1964) paintings address wider questions of citizenship, community, and cultural memory. His work will be included in *Into the Brightness*, Oakland Museum of California (2023). A retrospective was on view at Malmö Konsthall, Sweden in 2022. Solo exhibitions include *Good Person*, White Columns, NYC (2009); *It's a Beautiful Day Outside*, Ortuzar Projects, NYC (2020); and he was included in *From One Revolution to Another: Carte Blanche to Jeremy Deller*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2008); *The Alternative Guide to the Universe*, Hayward Gallery, London (2013), *Exhibition #4*, Museum of Everything, London (2011); *Create*, BAMPPFA, Berkeley (2011); *Creative Growth*, Gavin Brown's Enterprise, NYC (2007); and many others. His work is in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) and The Studio Museum in Harlem, NYC; LACMA, Los Angeles; Oakland Museum of California; and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA).

Nicole Storm (USA, b. 1967), an artist-in-residence at Creative Growth since 1995, received a solo exhibition at White Columns, NYC in 2021. Her work was exhibited in *Creative! Growth!*, curated by Matthew Higgs, at the Kohler Art Center, WI (2022-2023). Next month, Storm's paintings are included in *Into the Brightness*, Oakland Museum of California (2023). Her work was also exhibited at Independent (NY), Outsider Art Fair, and Frieze New York, curated by Elizabeth Kley, in 2022.

Monica Valentine (USA, b. 1955) creates vibrant and tactile mixed media objects that involve pins, sequins, and beads. Next month, her sculptures are included in *Into the Brightness*, Oakland Museum of California (2023). Valentine's work was recently included in *Creative! Growth!*, curated by Matthew Higgs, at the Kohler Art Center, WI (2022-2023); and was featured in several presentations at the Outsider Art Fair.

Ron Veasey (USA, b. 1957) has a fundamental interest in the human form as a vehicle for color and line. Last year, Veasey's portraits were included in *Creative! Growth!*, curated by Matthew Higgs at the Kohler Arts Center in Wisconsin; *More Than A Thousand Words*, at the Kimball Art Center in Park City, UT; and *Shine Light on an Owl's Face*, curated by Katherine Sherwood, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA (2022). His work was also in selected group exhibitions, *Can't Beat California*, Golestani Gallery, Dusseldorf, DE (2021); *Gifted: The Self-Taught Genius of Creative Growth*, Nina Johnson Gallery, Miami, Florida (2019), and the Outsider Art Fair.

DIANE ROSENSTEIN GALLERY

Alice Wong's (Hong Kong, CN, b. 1980) painted interpretations of found photographs transform and obscure their original subject matter. A 20-year artist-in-residence at Creative Growth, Wong's work was recently included in *Open Archive 3.0*, Het Nieuwe Instituut, Rotterdam, NL (2022-2023). Exhibitions include *Different and Special*, Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art, S. Korea (2012); *Family Fictions*, Extra City Kunsthall, Antwerp, BG (2019); and *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco (2015).

Ying Ge Zhou (Guangdong, CN, b. 1978) makes enigmatic portraits that are rendered in fluid lines and suffused with watercolor. Her work was included in *Platform*, David Zwirner Gallery (Online, 2021); *Vibrant*, Nina Johnson Gallery, Miami, FL (2021); *Gifted: The Self Taught Genius of Creative Growth*, Nina Johnson Gallery, Miami, FL (2019); *Issue 3*, Good Luck Gallery, Los Angeles, CA (2018); *Vis-à-vis*, curated by Michael Mahalchick, Andrew Edlin Gallery, NYC, (2015); and *John Hiltunen +1*, curated by Matthew Higgs, Gallery Paule Anglim, San Francisco (2012).

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