

GLARE

March 31 - May 14, 2022



Brew House Association Staff:

Natalie Sweet, *Program Director*

Stephanie Garrison, *Operations Director*

Brew House Association (BHA) is a non-profit art center that provides creative space and support for people to connect and expand their relationship with the arts. Founded in the early 1990s in the former Duquesne Brewing Company facility by a community of artists committed to social awareness, BHA carries these ideals forward in its programming today. BHA helps artists grow professionally and creatively by connecting them to audiences, professional resources, and other arts organizations throughout the region and beyond. Housed in a 14,000 sq. ft. facility, BHA has the space, elements, and tools to support the imaginative work of a wide spectrum of creatives.
www.brewhousearts.org

Brew House Association is generously supported by Arts Equity Reimagined Fund, Allegheny Regional Asset District, The Heinz Endowments, Henry L. Hillman Foundation, Opportunity Fund, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and PNC Charitable Trusts.

Gallery guide edited and designed by Point Line Projects

GLARE

DISTILLERY

Emerging Artist Residency Program, Brew House Association, *Pittsburgh, PA*

Darrin Milliner
Jessica Alpern Brown
Juliandra Jones
Lizzee Solomon
Samira Mendoza
Tara Fay
Zeal Eva

Distillery XII

March 31 - May 14, 2022



About Distillery

Distillery is a yearlong studio residency designed to help emerging artists transition into a professional artistic career by supporting a rigorous studio practice and providing professional development and mentorship opportunities. The program focuses on inspiring participants to embrace challenges in their work and builds a supportive community in which to create.

GLARE

What do you remember about the playground where you spent your youth?

Do you feel the warm light of the sun as it shines across the monkey bars? Or does your body remember glares from surveilling eyes that othered you as you hid beneath a slide? How do these memories and others inform the person you are today?

United by their time spent together in Brew House Association's twelfth Distillery Artist-in-Residence program, the seven artists exhibited in *GLARE* showcase a spectrum of artworks that pull from their individual life experiences. Collectively, the artists recontextualize remnants of found and recycled material into artworks that elevate light and appreciate the sticky nature of nostalgia.

While artworks by Jessica Alpern Brown and Juliandra Jones suggest the divine through the fleeting refraction of light, works such as those by Tara Fay point to glaring racial disparities and interrogate the romanticization of poverty. In a back corner of the gallery, Samira Mendoza invites viewers to connect to childhood memories and provokes us to consider who has access to the privilege of innocence.

Contextually and materially layered, several artworks in the exhibition utilize collage techniques as artists cobble together narratives from pop culture and their own lives. Darrin Milliner has amassed an archive of vintage graphics that are pieced together to subvert familiar visual culture, while Lizzee Solomon utilizes laser cut acrylic pieces to create expressive portraits that are mounted on top of a painted backdrop. In the large scale painting, *The Ones Lost Along the Way*, Zeal Eva flattens time and space to fuse isolated moments into one frame.

Through this collection of ethereal and challenging works, *GLARE* reminds us that we too are like collages, made up of the many memories and versions of our previous selves.

Darrin Milliner

At my core, I am really just a person who is meant to create, whatever that may be. I have always been creating and exploring how to produce things that aren't already in existence. I don't think I'll ever stop doing that, and I'm not sure I ever could.

For years, I have been collecting vintage books, piles of magazines, posters, and other printed matter for reference and source image materials. In my studio, I carefully select, cut, and assemble these materials into new visuals and works of art. Working both by hand and digitally allows me to create unique designs that wouldn't otherwise be possible.

I understand and portray mindsets that many of us may have but can't express or visualize. By taking every opportunity to absorb subjects that spark emotion and action, and bringing them to the forefront of my work, I highlight the importance of the separate worlds that empower and/or limit each of us.

Recommended by [Name Redacted] organization for incognito movements

theories of survival

Survival Essentials

SOCIAL LIVING

Your second chance at life...
Better than the first?

A New Identity

Be the person you always wanted to be

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DOB 06/01/1988 ISS# 12/05/2021
EXP 08/15/2029

NEWPERSON
YOU ARE A BRAND
111 PERFECT PLACE
FORYOU, PA 15000

SEX N/A EYES Perfect
HAIR B-Y
CLASS AAA
END N/A
REST N/A

DL

Janese Manspison

DOB: 26512600401
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A New Identity

SOCIAL LIVING

theories of survival

A brand new YOU awaits.

Pennsylvania DRIVER'S LICENSE
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REST N/A

DL

Janese Manspison

DOB: 26512600401
1504891204891

Who will YOU be?

What will YOU do?

Start a new life all about YOU

*THIS PRODUCT HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED BY THE U.S.A. GOVERNMENT

A New Identity

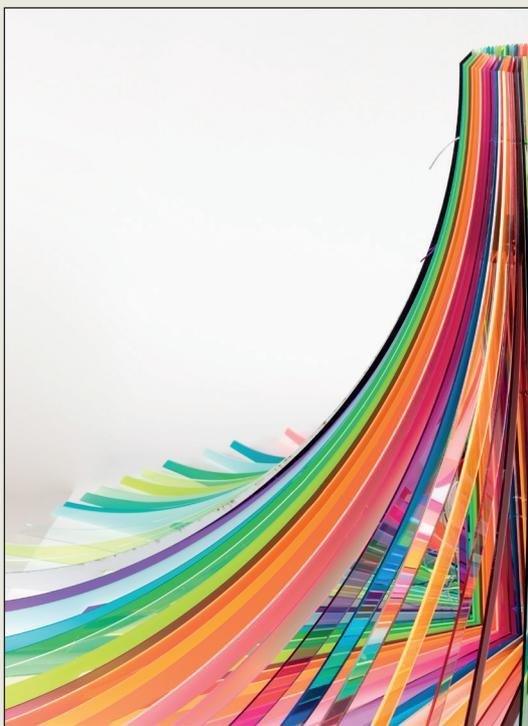
Jessica Alpern Brown

At the core of my practice is a belief that fine art can inspire functional design. I currently focus on making resilient, durable works that use color and light to bring beauty to ubiquitous objects and overlooked areas. Whether it's a tool for wayfinding, a necessary fixture, or traditional wall art, I believe artwork is a unique conduit for shared experience, and that even the most mundane object can provide an opportunity to make that experience positive.

I also believe that the best work comes from moments when thoughtfulness and skillful making intersect, so I pursue both in equal measure.



Light Lines



Light Line Chandelier

Juliandra Jones

I explore my own self-healing through an examination of the female form, using crystals, natural materials, and other found objects in addition to more traditional media. In my most recent series, “The Beauty Within,” I experiment with colors that evoke particular emotions, specifically those I feel when creating, in an effort to connect with the viewer. This series explores the deep, unseen parts coming to the surface and works through experimentation and discovery. All of my series grow over time, as they are based on my personal journey of growth and self-acceptance.



R & R (Relaxation & Reflection)



Shine

Lizzee Solomon

My art is made of faces. These portraits are vivid and textural, juxtaposing natural and manufactured materials. The vibrant color palette and patterns are drawn from my experience woodcarving in rural Oaxaca, Mexico in 2012. I learned to transform copal tree chunks into alebrijes—brilliantly colored sculptures of wild, fantastical creatures.

I dream of releasing wild and unexpected things into the world. My studio practice can be meticulous and tedious at times. Fueled by obsession, compulsion, and mania, I work this way for its unexpected meditative qualities. I am entranced by every nuance of my subjects, creating shapes out of shadows, patterns out of pores, and exaggerating their colors. My subjects of choice include imaginary creatures, celebrities, and family members. Each portrait begins as a drawing. After software processing, I use CNC technology to fabricate the components using colorful plastic, birch plywood, and adhesive vinyl. Assembling the different parts is therapeutic, much like putting together a puzzle. The individual pieces come together to form a semi-nightmarish portrait with satisfying textures and juicy colors.

These faces are my wild things—encountered and remembered as jolting beauties.

“To me, beauty is looks you can never forget. A face should jolt, not soothe.”

—John Waters



Vanity (All Who Are Again the Queen Will Die)



Rage (Heart-Shaped Lips)

Samira Mendoza

Samiraaa's practice is

- centered -

around improvisation

around flow

around investigation

around exploration

//(of of of)//

around

this is a way to question

and and

reject formal structures.

a space

for new ideas to form

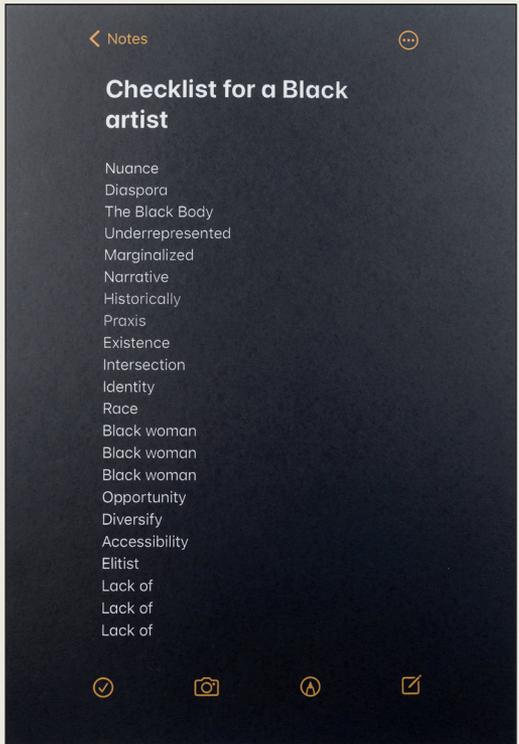
improvisation is an act of resistance.



Bendiciones Ángel 1

Tara Fay

I am a conceptual artist, mother, and curator, from Buffalo, NY. I examine my practice as a study in duality, a constant work in progress, and a continued exploration of Black female subjectivity, language, selfhood, and self-presentation. Through performance, photography, and text, I mine my lived experiences as a way to explore my identity, while allowing space for cultural critique around the realities of existing as a low-income Black, bi-racial woman. I would describe my work overall as constantly reframing my own artistic record as my practice grows and evolves.



Iphone Notes Series

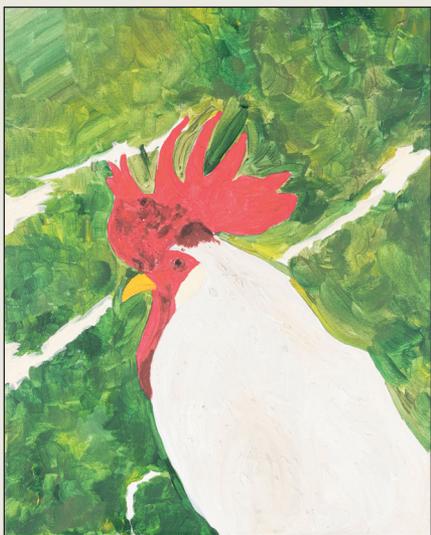


Cultural Relics (you wasn't there)

I am a visual storyteller who celebrates the Black experience through artworks that bring to life a nostalgic feeling of home. Through photography, painting, illustration, and sculpture, I explore the intersections of the natural world and the built environment to highlight shared Black experiences and document the present. My process is deeply impacted by my surroundings including the individuals in the community and the places I work. My creative practice often includes organic forms such as fruits, vegetables, and herbs, as well as interior spaces, revealing themes of growth, comfort, and discovery. Traces of my hand are visible in my painterly brushstrokes and warm-toned portrait-staging that uplifts the sentimental.



Grandma's House



Rooster

Juliandra Jones

Juliandra Jones is a self-taught mixed media artist, muralist, live painter, entrepreneur, and educator from Las Vegas, Nevada. She uses vinyl, acrylic, aerosol paint, and natural elements—like crystals—in her paintings, woodcuts, sculptures, and public art projects to explore themes of social justice and self-care. Her art brings people together, elevates marginalized voices, and centers happiness and joy rather than pain and struggle.

Juliandra received a bachelors in Criminal Justice and Pre-Law from the University of Nevada, Reno in 2014 and graduated from the Own Our Own Business Academy in 2021. Shortly after, she officially launched PBJ Customs, her very own mural painting business.

Through her murals, Juliandra creates public artworks and public spaces that are bright, inclusive, community-driven, and welcoming for all. She developed Pop-Up with PBJ to bring accessible art education, free classes, and workshops directly to children in the underserved communities in which she works. Her process is deeply collaborative and invites other artists, youth, community leaders, and local residents to assist in the development of new work.

Tara Fay

Tara Fay is an independent curator, producer, and conceptual artist from Buffalo, New York. She serves as a board member, artist relations coordinator, and Associate Curator at Bunker Projects and is a member of the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh. She has curated exhibitions for various institutions, including the August Wilson African American Cultural Center, Phosphor Project Space, Denison University in Granville, Ohio, and the Brew House Association Gallery. Her artwork has been exhibited at the Carnegie Museum of Art, SPACE Gallery, Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, and Carnegie Mellon University.



Darrin Milliner

Darrin Milliner is a self-taught artist, designer, and archivist of printed materials based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Milliner is the founder & creative director of Social Living, a lifestyle brand that offers art for a new perspective. Milliner creates objects and images that distort and combine recognizable elements of commercial imagery to highlight the importance of the separate worlds that empower or limit each of us. Milliner's work has been exhibited in Pittsburgh and Louisville, Kentucky, including the solo exhibition *Interlude* at the CDCP Project Space in 2020.

Jessica Alpern Brown

Jessica Alpern Brown is a multidisciplinary artist who creates fine art and design for homes, public realms, and the built environment. She comes from a diverse background centered in the arts and has been mastering fabrication techniques for nearly twenty years. While she began her career as a photographer, Jessica is known for her multimedia cut paper works and use of innovative materials including acrylic, color shifting vinyl, and non-toxic resin as well as sustainable metals and wood. Jessica resides in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and has exhibited in the southwestern PA region, nationally, and internationally. She is represented by the Boxheart Gallery and is featured in the Monmade x CDCP Art Print Collection.

Samira Mendoza

Samira Mendoza is an interdisciplinary performance artist, curator, and educator based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Their work centers improvisation through different mediums including sound, sculpture, organizing, and movement to investigate oppressive systems, familial history, and personal experiences. Mendoza currently collaborates with Gladstone Deluxe and Lola Machine as Dendarry Bakery, The Universe Online as Universe Mendoza, and XC-17 and Yessi as Dyspheric. Mendoza has opened for Arca & Carlos Saez and Jordan LeSesne (fka 1.8.7) at Planet Zolean for the first COMMON MULTIVERSE INITIATIVE on Currents.FM, the Dragon Sisters for TQ Live at the Carnegie Museum of Art, and LAL for The Meteors Could Come Down tour.

Mendoza's work has been featured at the Experimental Sound Studio, Fuse Factory and Digital Arts Lab, Queens Museum, Panoply Performance Laboratory, Pittsburgh Filmmakers & Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, Public Space One, and the Woods Cooperative. They are the founder of hodgepodge, an interdisciplinary arts network that features performances, installations, and curated ensembles. Mendoza works at Assemble as the Monthly Programs Coordinator & Steam Teacher and serves on the Artists Council for the Kelly Strayhorn Theater.

Zeal Eva

Zeal Eva, also known as Vania Evangelique, is a painter, photographer, curator, and arts educator whose work is deeply rooted in personal history and the histories of the communities in which she works. Originally from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, Zeal Eva is currently based in Pittsburgh. Her artwork tells stories of home and celebrates the Black experience through the use of digital and film photography, painting, and illustration. Zeal Eva's artwork has been exhibited in solo exhibitions including *Today/Yesterday* at Bunker Projects and *Where Flowers Bloom* at Thoughtrobbers Gallery. She has been a collaborator with organizations including the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh, Boom Concepts, Assemble Gallery, The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, and Brew House Association. Zeal Eva is currently an Artist-in-Residence at Brew House Association and Head Curator of the Coloured Section Arts.

Lizzee Solomon

Lizzee Solomon was born in New York, New York and grew up in suburban Chicago, Illinois. She earned a BFA in Studio Art at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 2011 and studied Spanish in Valencia, Spain. Soon after graduating, she was invited to complete the Arquetopia Foundation International Artist Residency in Oaxaca, Mexico. Her time in Mexico profoundly influenced her creative practice, and she began developing a wide range of painting and mixed-media work. Solomon is based in Pittsburgh, and participates in group and solo exhibitions as an artist and curator in the region. Over the last ten years, she has published several independent comic books under the name "Mutual Paradise." In addition to her studio practice, Solomon is a commercial artist, working with local businesses to elevate their visual stories using a combination of new and traditional techniques. In addition, Solomon has over fifteen years of professional teaching experience and is currently a Teaching Fellow at Protohaven—a school for design, fabrication, and the public good.

Acknowledgements

Our work at Brew House Association is centered on connecting artists & community, and we're deeply grateful to all those who make that work possible. First and foremost, Distillery relies on program mentors to support our artists, and this year's have been some of our best. To Heidi Wiren Bartlett, Ashley Cecil, Jessica Gaynelle Moss, and Brent Nakamoto, thank you for bringing your authentic selves to our discussions and your thoughtfulness around our workshops and critiques. To our current and past Distillery artists, this program wouldn't exist without you all, and we're grateful for the growing Brew House family you create. Thanks in particular to the Distillery XI cohort who contributed immensely to strengthening core aspects of the Distillery program. I want to extend a thank you to our Board of Directors, for ongoing leadership and support. To Point Line Projects & in particular Makenzie O'Connor and Candace Opper, we appreciate your vision for bringing this booklet to life. All images found in these pages were taken by Porter Loves, whose support of BHA shows up in many ways. Finally, thank you Stephanie Garrison for being a partner for it all.

—Natalie Sweet, Program Director
Brew House Association

Works Exhibited

- 01 **Jessica Alpern Brown**
Light Line Chandelier, 2022
Acrylic, silk, steel
24" x 53" x 53"
- 02 *Light Lines*, 2022
Acrylic, pvc
18" x 12" x 22"
- 03 *Portal Light ()*, 2022
LED light, acrylic, nylon power cords
Variable
- Darrin Milliner**
- 04 *Racism Detector VI*, 2022
Mixed media/ collage
24" x 12" x 6"
- 05 *A New Identity*, 2022
Mixed media/ collage
24" x 12" x 6"
- 06 *Emergency Poison*, 2022
Mixed media/ collage
24" x 12" x 6"
- Samira Mendoza**
- 07 *Bendiciones Niñx*, 2022
Mixed media sculpture
48" x 36" x 19"
- 08- *Bendiciones Ángel 1-4*, 2022
11 Mixed media painting
17" x 14"
- Juliandra Jones**
- 12 *R & R (Relaxation & Reflection)*, 2021
Acrylic paint, glass, gold leaf, resin
53" x 65" x 1.5"
- 13 *Ge(ode) to Myself*, 2022
Foam, plaster, mortar, spray paint,
metallic paint, broken glass
28" x 14" x 9"
- 14 *Pour Into Me*, 2022
Foam, plaster, mortar, broken glass
32" x 13" x 9.5"
- 15 *Shine*, 2021
Acrylic paint, broken glass, resin
48" x 24" x 1.5"
- 16 *Gravitational Waves*, 2022
Acrylic paint, broken glass, resin
48" x 24" x 1.5"
- 17 *Big Boom*, 2021
Acrylic paint
96" x 28" x 2"
- 18 *Remnant*, 2022
Fiberglass mannequin, plaster, acrylic
paint, broken glass
35" x 19" x 9.5"
- Lizzee Solomon**
- 19 *Vanity (All Who Are Again thee Queen
Will Die)*, 2021
Laser cut plywood, acrylic, MDF, gold
leaf, acrylic paint
27" x 42" x 1"
- 20 *Rage (Heart-Shaped Lips)*, 2021
Laser cut plywood, acrylic, MDF, gold
leaf, acrylic paint
32" x 43" x 1"
- 21 *Betty Beheaded (She Plays with Knives)*,
2019
Laser cut plywood, acrylic, MDF,
acrylic paint
28" x 20" x 1"
- 22 *Split Brit (A Girl & Her Hair)*, 2022
Laser cut plywood, acrylic, MDF,
acrylic paint
28" x 21" x 1"
- Tara Fay**
- 23 *Iphone Notes Series*, 2022
Screen Print
40" x 26" each
- 24 *Cultural Relics (you wasn't there)*, 2022
Mixed media on canvas
36" x 24" each
- Zeal Eva**
- 25 *The Ones Lost Along The Way*, 2022
Acrylic paint, oil pastel, house paint,
oil paint
60" x 60"
- 26 *Sunflowers*, 2022
Acrylic paint, oil pastel, oil paint
20" x 16"
- 27 *Blue Hydrangeas*, 2022
Acrylic paint, oil pastel, house paint,
oil paint
24" x 18"
- 28 *Rooster*, 2022
Acrylic paint, oil paint, ink
20" x 16"
- 29 *Grandma's House*, 2021
Oil pastel, acrylic paint, gold leaph,
graphite, ink, fabric on stretched
canvas
48" x 48"

GLARE

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