



RIP
REPAIR
REPEAT

April 20 - June 17, 2023



Brew House Association Staff:

Natalie Sweet, *Executive Director*

Stephanie Garrison, *Operations Director*

Brent Nakamoto, *Program and Marketing Coordinator*

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.

brewhousearts.org

Brew House Association is supported in part by the taxpayers of Allegheny County through a public grant from the Allegheny Regional Asset District (RAD), Duquesne Light Co., Fine Foundation, The Heinz Endowments, Hillman Foundation, Opportunity Fund, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council through its Allegheny Arts Revival Grant and the National Endowment for the Arts, The Pittsburgh Foundation, and PNC Charitable Trusts.

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Sandra Bacchi Artwork Image: Sandra Bacchi

Distillery

RIP REPAIR REPEAT

Distillery Emerging Artist Residency, Brew House Association
Pittsburgh, PA

SANDRA BACCHI

TARA HAYES

JAMEELAH PLATT

NICK SARDO

RACHEL MORGAN SIMMONS

ZIM SYED

PAIGE TIBBE

April 20-June 17, 2023

RIP, REPAIR, REPEAT

Throughout Brew House Association's 2023 Distillery Program, these artists-in-residence have shown that they're not afraid to take risks in order to experiment and



reimagine their creative practices. The work in *Rip, Repair, Repeat* speaks to the process of mending and making whole, while also acknowledging the cyclical nature of the creative process—that taking apart is as much a part of moving forward as putting together.



Tara Hayes and Zim Syed start by literally tearing at their materials in order to reassemble them in new and unexpected ways. Hayes' multi-layered collage paintings seek to question the stability of space and memory, while Syed's assemblages aim to destabilize hierarchies and poke fun at the seriousness of the art world.

Both accomplished oil painters, Nick Sardo and Paige Tibbe push the boundaries of traditional painting in order to conjure immersive worlds for their figures to occupy. Sardo's idiosyncratic icons are made from the clash between sleekly rendered surfaces and expressive mark-making.



Tibbe invites us into their



idyllic paintings by creating shaped panels that break out of the frame and off the wall.



Other artists pull together the many threads of community history and personal storytelling. Jameelah Platt's portraits of friends and family are a way of celebrating the important people in her life. Working with both images and poetry, Rachel Morgan Simmons' works are haunted by the nearness of death and suffering, and reflect a journey of healing and building oneself up again. Sandra Bacchi's installations of family photographs speak to the way that circumstances of place and time can pull us apart—and the power of art to bring us together.



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.



SANDRA BACCHI
The House We Live in, 2023

NICK SARDO
If There Were a Vacancy, 2023 (left)
Empty Podium, 2023 (right)

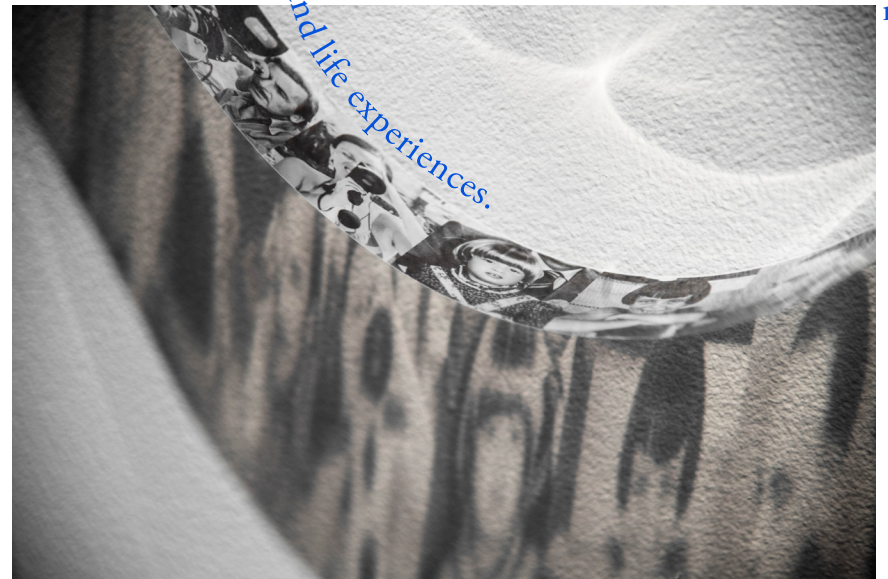


SANDRA BACCHI

I tell stories that weave together truth and fiction. My current work is a combination of memories from my own life and that others have shared with me. I create collages by combining photographs with abstract and expressive imagery. I hope to create images that reflect the layers of time within a memory and the way that emotions can change over time as we remember them more or less vividly than when they occurred. **I see the world and its people as a combination of layers, built up from our ancestors, family history, and life experiences.** In my work I focus on human interaction and finding common ground. I hope to encourage people to choose curiosity over judgment and to accept people with different backgrounds than their own.

1 - *Entre (Between)*, 2023

I see the world and its people as a combination of layers, built up from our ancestors, family history, and life experiences.





TARA HAYES

I make abstract work reflecting the physical landscape, with uncertainty. **I encode my works with visual elements of physical mapping, boundaries, rules of play, and elements of spatial distortion, constructing spaces through multiple opposing perspectives.** I create my work by painting, drawing, carving, collaging, and sewing—cutting and tearing pieces of canvas and then stitching them back together. This process mirrors the way I navigate the world as someone with epilepsy—coping with memory loss and needing to repetitively retrace my steps. The resulting works do not entirely resemble any legible map of a physical space nor of the mind. Instead, these abstracted paths are fragmented and mimic blurred feelings. They create areas of questionable spatial stability and reflect on the recognition that no space can ever be experienced the same way twice.

2 - *At Arm's Length*, 2023
 3 - *Stranded*, 2023

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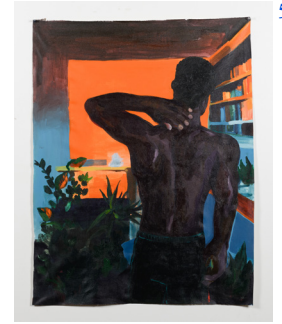


JAMEELAH PLATT

With a priority to create work that heals my community, my studio practice is propelled by my fascination in narrative building, art history, assemblage, and the adornment of objects, spaces, and people. In my collages and paintings, I celebrate the people in my community. **I choose subjects, spaces, and moments that are both beautiful and mysterious, because I enjoy the wonder and opportunity of unraveling a story.** The narratives within my paintings are selected based upon the initial allure of the image's aesthetic and composition. Then I begin to play through the exploration of color and the adornment of glitter, beads, patterns, textures, and found imagery. I'm interested in exploring themes of celebration, community, togetherness, love, comfort, luxury, stillness, nostalgia, holiness, spirituality, and the dichotomies surrounding such themes.

4 - *Dorsé Goes Out*, 2023

5 - *Golden Hour*, 2023



5

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4



NICK SARDO

My practice centers around a satirical take on the idea of the divine. I draw from a wide variety of sources, ranging from Byzantine iconography to offbeat, gory 1980s cartoons. The majority of my current efforts in the studio involve painting in oils, which I approach experimentally on paper and more elaborately on custom-shaped wood panels that I build myself. **My work shows singular figures that inhabit the roles of idol and worshiper, created from clashes of organic form and imagined objects.** Though these figures are always alone, some loom over the viewer, powerful and ornate, while others are shriveled and whimpering. They are simultaneously uncomfortable and demanding of your attention, evoking consistent themes of isolation and redemption. At the core, there is always a “self” to my figures, a mysterious past you can’t put your finger on but know is there.

6 - *Empty Podium*, 2023

7 - *If There Were a Vacancy*, 2023



7



6

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RACHEL MORGAN SIMMONS

I am driven to explore the tender and mysterious. My works depict, describe, and play between spaces solid and ethereal, exploring the boundaries and bleeds of the perceivable world and what lies beyond. As a creator who is equal parts expressive and receptive, I often feel guided by collaborating with an intuitive force. Beginning in a space that is wordless, I mine specific experiential and emotional landscapes for ideas and images that can connect viewers to something shared. **The work is a constant effort to materialize divinity—not divine in the sense of religion but personally divine in the sense of describing a core truth.** As a multidisciplinary artist, I explore fear, life, death, intimacy, our relationships with the natural world, and the unknown in whichever medium feels best: large-scale paintings, poetry, prose, short stories, and even sculptural objects that ride the boundary between writing and sculpture.

8 - *All That You Are, In My Hands*, 2023

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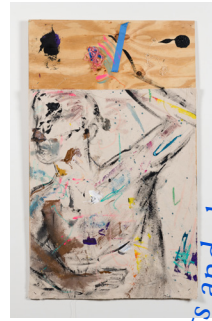
RACHEL MORGAN SIMMONS
*Yet We Bring Them, A Handful,
The Moon at the Bottom of the
Sea, Face in the Gap, But When,
Snow Angels, The Mysterious
Beyond, Above All, 2023*



ZIM SYED

My work is about undermining the seriousness of fine art. Inspired by Duchamp, Basquiat, and Bugs Bunny, I'm interested in bending reality into something more playful and mischievous. I often work with imagery sourced from life experience, fiction, and art history. My process is a collaboration with friends, materials, and space. In my recent work, I start by laying unstretched canvas on the studio floor. The canvas acts as a drop cloth, accumulating marks created by experimenting with a variety of media, including pastels, acrylic, and oil. The lack of direct intention in the mark-making gives the work its spontaneous energy. **I seek to challenge ideas of hierarchy and predetermination, delving into collaboration as a way to create marks that could not have existed without the intervention of other artists and chance.**

9 - *Floor is Lava (Detail)*, 2023
 10 - *Dancer*, 2023





ZIM SYED
Floor is Lava, 2023



PAIGE TIBBE

I am interested in how painting can work as both a two-dimensional representation and a sculptural, immersive experience. I'm exploring this by painting on multiple shaped panels that have been collaged together to form a stacked, cluster-like arrangement that hangs off the wall at various depths. I build up my compositions by piecing together and layering found imagery and my own photos, with the end result being a combination of photorealist images of landscapes, portraits of friends, and everyday objects, as well as other colorful, distorted, and abstract imagery. By collaging my own images with found images, **I am trying to find the coexistence between subject matter that is personal and things that are just happenstance, blurring the space between what is meaningless and meaningful**, what is lost in the void and what has purpose.

11 - *Fake Place for a Real Body*, 2023
 12 - *Lexie*, 2023



12

Just happenstance, blurring the space between what is meaningless and meaningful...



I am trying to find the coexistence between subject matter that is personal and things that are just happenstance, blurring the space between what is meaningless and meaningful...

11

SANDRA BACCHI

Sandra Bacchi is a Brazilian-American visual artist based in Pittsburgh. Working with photography, video, and glass, her documentary and conceptual works weave together fiction and truth to tell more open-ended stories about how human beings find common ground. After earning a degree in photography in 1997, Bacchi worked in the Brazilian film industry. In 2012, she moved to the US and turned her focus to her artistic career. Since then, she has shown her work nationally and internationally, including shows at the McDonough Museum of Art (Youngstown, Ohio), Pittsburgh Glass Center, and Houston Center for Photography, and reviewed in publications including *LensCratch*, *Float Photo Magazine*, and *aCurator*. In 2019–2020, Bacchi was an artist in residence at the Pittsburgh Glass Center. In 2022, Bacchi's photobook *Watermelons Are Not Strawberries* was published by Yoffy Press and exhibited as a solo show at Concept Art Gallery in Pittsburgh.

TARA HAYES

Tara Hayes is a visual artist, maker, and educator currently based out of Pittsburgh. She received a BFA in Studio Art and a BS in Art Education from Miami University in 2017 and an MFA in 2D Fine Arts from the Massachusetts College of Art & Design in Boston in 2020. She was a 2018 Yeck College Artist Fellow at the Dayton Art Institute. She has exhibited her work in Boston at Scollay Square Gallery, MassArt x SoWa Gallery, and Gallery DeWolfe, on the virtual platform Kunstmatrix, and locally in Pittsburgh. In 2021 she was featured in *Friend of the Artist Vol. 13*, a printed book of emerging artists, and the Studio Image Project, an online photo-collection of working artist's studio spaces. She is currently an instructor at the North Hills Art Center in Pittsburgh.

JAMEELAH PLATT

Jameelah Platt is an interdisciplinary, African American artist from Pittsburgh. She studied fine art and minored in film at the University of Art in Philadelphia and received a certification from the Permaculture Institute of North America in 2021. She has had solo exhibitions with the Pittsburgh Center for Arts and Media and Assemble Learning Center, and has also exhibited with the Free Expression Project, MuseumLab, University of Pittsburgh's Center for African American Poetry and Poetics, Manchester Craftsmen's Guild, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, and National Liberty Museum in Philadelphia. In 2019 she participated in the Freshworks Artist Residency at Kelly Strayhorn Theater.

NICK SARDO

Originally from Santa Monica, California, Nick Sardo is a Pittsburgh-based mixed-media artist, currently focused on painting. He paints singular figures involved in self-contained narratives, combining highly rendered form and

deconstructed facial features. Sardo holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Carnegie Mellon University and has exhibited locally and nationally, including at Irma Freeman Gallery, Bunker Projects, and here Gallery. He is currently a member of the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh.

RACHEL MORGAN SIMMONS

Born and raised on a farm in McDonald, Pennsylvania, Rachel Morgan Simmons is a painter, published poet, and multidisciplinary artist based in Pittsburgh. She received a BFA in Studio Art from Allegheny College in 2016 with awards for exhibited work and worked as a studio assistant for New York City-based artists Alexi Worth and Barnaby Furnas. Her work has been exhibited in gallery spaces around Pittsburgh, and she has performed live readings of her written work throughout the city.

ZIM SYED

Zim Syed is a Bangladeshi-American mixed-media artist. Zim was born in Atlanta and moved to the United Arab Emirates soon after. He spent his childhood between the USA, Bangladesh, and the UAE, and his upbringing and experiences as a Bangladeshi American have vastly shaped his life and work. Zim became involved in the local art scene while studying economics at the University of Pittsburgh. In 2020, Zim was the lead artist on the John Lewis Mural, located on Locust Street in Pittsburgh's Uptown neighborhood, which promotes visual messages about police brutality, systemic racism, and gun violence. In 2021, he received a BIPOC micro grant from the Pittsburgh Foundation's Center for Philanthropy. Zim is represented by BoxHeart Gallery in Bloomfield. Along with Brew House's Distillery residency, Zim was also recently awarded the Radiant Hall x Boom Concepts residency.

PAIGE TIBBE

Paige Tibbe is a visual artist based out of Pittsburgh. They graduated from Seton Hill University with a BFA in Studio Art in 2017. Paige is a member of the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh (AAP) and the Pittsburgh Society of Artists. They have exhibited at galleries in the Pittsburgh area, including the Christine Frechard Gallery, the Westmoreland Museum of Art, and Slippery Rock University. Juried group exhibitions include AAP's 106th Annual Exhibition, curated by Taras Matla (2018) and *I See You*, curated by Jen Melvin at Point Park University (2018). Paige has shown in other notable regional exhibitions such as the *Students of Artists Who Teach* at the Westmoreland Museum of Art and *Physique* at Panza Gallery, at which they were awarded Juror's Choice Award (2018). Paige's inclusion in the juried exhibition Art of the State in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, was awarded with an Honorable Mention for their painting *Mike* (2019).

