

Being & Feeling (Alone, Together)

March 2020

It was impossible to know that when this exhibition was finally realized, that it would become eerily prescient, that it would forecast a felt and lived experience, rather than merely a curatorial one.

However, to subsume the artwork into this period of profound alteration of our daily lived experiences—those characterized by movement, by congregation, by intimate exchanges and collective catharsis, by friends and walks and travel and work and prayer and joy and mourning—would be to lose sight of what the artwork can offer us both before and perhaps, after.

Artists in *Being & Feeling (Alone, Together)* offer a meditation on the human condition, with its foibles, frailties, awkwardness, and grace. The carved wood portraits of **Sachiko Akiyama**, drawing on the artist's Japanese American heritage, touch on emotion, presence, and empathy. Painter **Andrew Fish's** figures, set in ambiguous landscapes, invite us to create new stories. **Lauren Gillette's** mirrored tiles of text promote intimacy even where authors are absent. The work of **Katya Grokhovsky** examines gender, the immigrant experience, stereotypes, and injustice with urgency and criticality. **Stephanie Misa** reflects on language—read, shared, and heard—and identity, as diverse, intersectional, and always in a state of becoming. **Tobias Rud's** animations capture the sweet memories of childhood and the power of shared song. **Jon Sakata** and Democracy of Sound (Exeter) members (**Gigi Gee '21, Elizabeth Kostina '20, Chloe Minicucci '21, Daisy Newbury '23, and Sophie Turer '21**) offer an invitation to move and breathe alongside a twinkling, rippling, and embodied mylar 'room,' echoing with the heard and felt poetry of **Willie Perdomo**. **Cheryle St. Onge's** photography represents and communicates: for, about, and in collaboration with her mother, who is suffering from vascular dementia. **Riikka Talvite's** 'inner dialogue' video connects her multiple selves as composer, performer, and artist, to the multiple selves of the viewer, through pathos and humor.

Being & Feeling is comprised not only of the artists' individual works, but their collective bodies of/and work(s), bodies in conversation and exchange with each other and with our anticipated gatherings, our imagined exchanges, and with you. The experience of assembling an exhibition that may need to wait, and wait anon, speaks of loss and of separation, but also with the future hope of *being-with*. There is a strong desire to connect. We are enriched by being in relation, to ourselves and to others, no matter the physical or emotional distances that may separate us.

Lauren O'Neal
Director and Curator
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