

HEIGHTS ARTS

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Heights Arts presents first exhibition of 2021: "Posing the Question"



Omid Tavakoli



Helen Liggett

The topics of racial equality and a fight for justice have been at the forefront of headlines when we look back at 2020, and are not going away in 2021, as we've seen in recent events. That's why Heights Arts is proud to present its first exhibition of 2021, "Posing the Question." The exhibition showcases these topics and how our nation is responding to them.

Posing the Question runs January 22 through March 14. The exhibition was originally scheduled for summer of 2020, but pushed back to allow the public to see and enjoy the artwork in-person.

Featured artists include Kenneth Bernstein, Kenn Hetzel, Matthew Deibel, Mona Gazala, Scott Kraynak, Liz Maugans, and Omid Tavakoli, with an accompanying spotlight show by Helen Liggett. Their work ranges from photography and paintings reflecting systematic racism from years past, to manipulated photos taken during social justice protests in 2020.

In Tavakoli's Sea of Cops, the artist multiplies figures of state troopers in full swat gear to fill half the canvas. He says this represents the current issues of over-policing.

“From a distance the work looks like a black blob of ink, then as the viewer gets closer, they start to see markings. As they investigate further, they see the bigger picture, much like all the issues that have made 2020 such a monumental year,” Tavakoli explains.

Spotlight Gallery: Helen Liggett

The adjacent Spotlight Gallery features artist Helen Liggett, who photographs women she has known for years as they gather for clay-making classes. Liggett says her pieces are a counterpart to the idea of Posing the Question. In contrast to some of the direct political statements in the main exhibition, these pieces showing artists at work making things of clay present the idea of stillness as the answer.

“They worked in an open space with layers of clay below and floating, flowing, rippling conversation above, fashioning worlds based firmly in experience and in the clay,” said Liggett.

“The hands of potters have an intimate relationship with their materials. These hands and their work are such familiars that at some point the differences between them begin to blur. Photography reveals this process, announcing truths both humble and profound.”

The public is encouraged to visit Heights Arts at 2175 Lee Road to view the exhibition.

About Heights Arts

Founded in 2000, Heights Arts is a nonprofit, multi-disciplinary arts organization whose mission is to celebrate our region's literary, musical, and visual artists, and share their contributions with the community.