

HEIGHTS **ARTS**

Group Show

June 16th – August 13th, 2023

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO THE
EXHIBITION COMMUNITY TEAM

Team leader: Greg Donley

Team Members: Kate Snow, Jack Stinedurf, Helen
Liggett, Michael Weil, Amber Ford, Josie Naypauer,
Juliet Duffy, Heather Patterson, and Cameron Gorman.

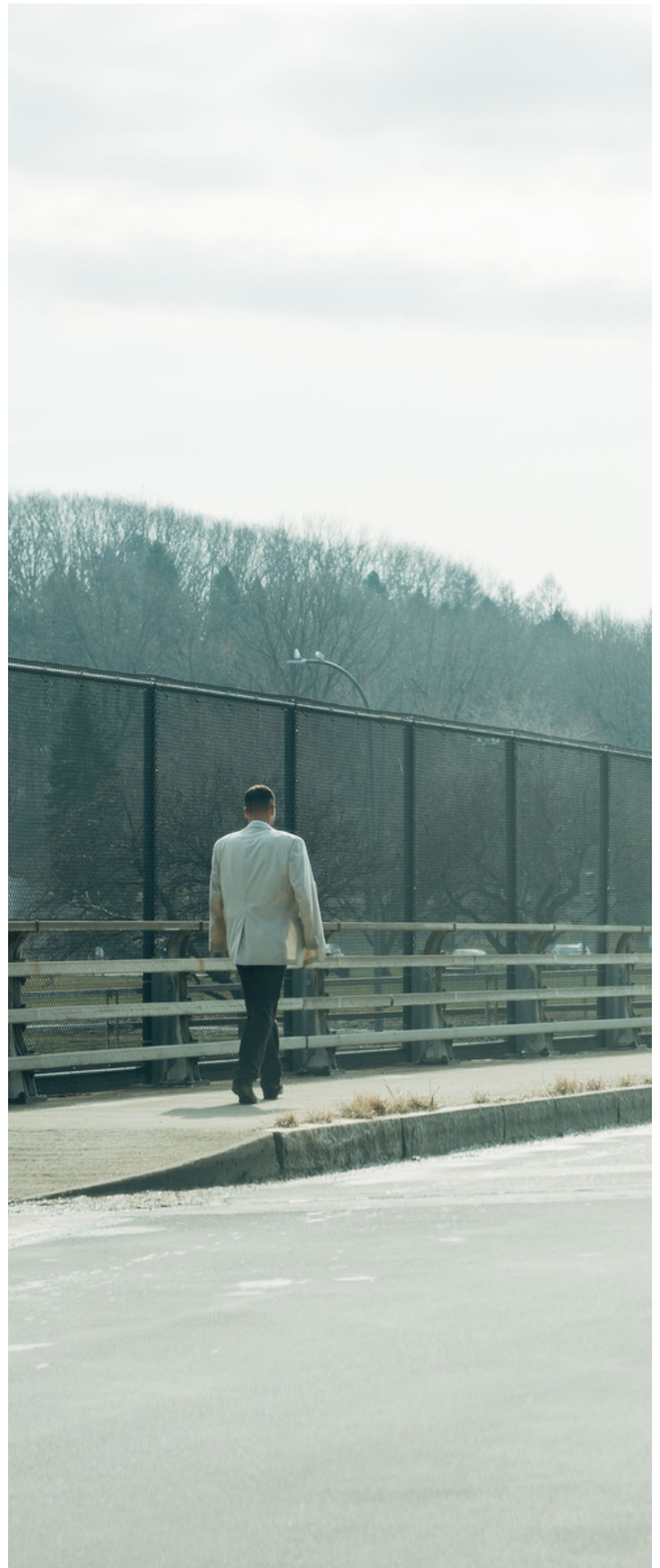
CONTRIBUTORS

Sawsan Alhaddad
Bruno Casiano

Yiyun Chen
Charlotte A. Lees
Donald Penn



Use the QR code to download
the program to your device.



2175 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio



ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Group Show is a special exhibition which occurs every 3 years and extends the concept of our Spotlight gallery into our main gallery. The Heights Arts Exhibitions Community Team selects a handful of exceptional artists and, rather than creating a collective theme, presents them as a group solo shows. This year's artists will be Sawsan Alhaddad, Bruno Casiano, Yiyun Chen, Charlotte A. Lees, and Donald Penn.

RELATED PROGRAMMING

EKPHRASTACY: Artists Talk + Poets Respond July 20th, 7PM

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The Ekphrastacy literary program is a series of artist talks and poetry readings held regularly in conjunction with our special exhibitions. Hear the visual artists discuss what inspires them and take questions from the audience. Cleveland-area poets Quartez Harris, Rikki Santer, Zuggie Tate, and Heights' Poet Laureate Siaara Freeman will recite poetry based on Group Show and the spotlight exhibition by Paula Damm.

COMING SOON FROM HEIGHTS ARTS

Close Encounters Season 16 Concert 5 June 25th, 3:00-5:00PM

[LEARN MORE](#)

Performers – Anthony Taddeo, Drums/Percussion; Amanda Powell, Voice; Dan Bruce, Guitar; Tommy Lehman, Trumpet/ Flugelhorn; Ian Kinnaman, Bass; Kelton Hale, Accordion

Alla Boara's mission is to bring recognition and new life to Italian Folk Music with more modern arrangements and (when applicable) with visual projections. The program includes storytelling throughout to help explain and deepen the connection to the individual compositions.

ARTbar – Theron Brown Trio June 29th, 7PM

[LEARN MORE](#)

Theron Brown, Zaire Darden, and Jordan McBride are the Theron Brown Trio, and they're in the business of making you feel good through music. ARTbar mixes their locally recognized sound with creative cocktails for a celebration surrounded by art!

Sawsan Alhaddad

ARTIST STATEMENT

I started painting 34 years ago. The urge to create has continued to push me to explore new media. My inspiration for representational work has always been the play of light, the changing seasons, and the reflections on water. The need to communicate through art led me to begin working abstractly -- using encaustic painting and later cold wax with oil paints, which is my main medium currently.

My intention is to express ideas and feelings without being representational. These abstract pieces are still inspired by nature and the play of light, but additional subject matter includes historical sources and my reflections on places and old civilizations. Change and loss thread their way into these paintings.

This series, A Walk in the Forest, is inspired by my long walks in our parks. Wandering through the trees is rejuvenating and calming. Being in the midst of trees in all seasons and watching the changes in color and texture inspires awe and wonder. I have tried to reflect these feelings in the work and hope that I have come close.

BIOGRAPHY

Sawsan Alhaddad was born and raised in Southern Iraq, among palm groves and marshes. She immigrated to the United States 43 years ago and worked in the medical field for 34 years.

She took up watercolor as a way to relieve stress in 1992, taking classes and workshops at the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Morgan Conservatory, the Orange Art Center, and others. She also traveled to other parts of the USA and abroad for workshops. After retiring from her career, she took up art full time. She now works mainly in oil and cold wax in an abstract style. She still dabbles in watercolor, oils, and pastels for her own enjoyment, depicting figures, plein air landscapes, and still-life subjects.

Summertime, Oil and cold wax, 30"x30"x1.5", \$2500, 2022

Rebirth, Oil and cold wax, 30"x30"x1.5", \$2500, 2023

Nostalgia, Oil and cold wax, 16"x16"x1.5", \$750, 2021

Golden Light, Oil and cold wax, 20"x24"x1.5", \$1200, 2021

Wild Hyacinth, Oil and cold wax, 12"x11"x1.5", \$400, 2021

Crystals, Oil and cold wax, 6.5"x6.5"x1.75", \$150, 2023

The Gift, Oil and cold wax, 24"x20"x1.5", \$1200, 2022

Bruno Casiano

ARTIST STATEMENT

Bruno Casiano is a Puerto Rican artist based in Cleveland, Ohio, who combines traditional and contemporary art. Born in Gary, Indiana, as the son of a steelworker, Bruno's family moved back to their hometown, Juana Diaz, a rural community in Puerto Rico, when he was 10 years old. Young Casiano developed an interest in art awakened by these rural surroundings and by the awareness of living on an Island, which made an impression on him. In his present work (regardless of the technique he chooses), from a traditional perspective, he emulates the look and feel of silkscreens, which are important in Puerto Rican tradition. In addition to that, imagery of mountains, mangos, ceiba trees, caves, leaves, branches, water, and colors and forms in high contrast are common themes in Casiano's work.

BIOGRAPHY

In Puerto Rico, Casiano studied painting at the School of Plastic Arts in Old San Juan in the early 1980s. He pursued further studies in illustration at The School of Design, Altos de Chavon in La Romana, Dominican Republic, and, in the mid-1990s, at the Cleveland Institute of Art in Ohio. For a few years, he owned and curated the Bruno Casiano Gallery on the West side of Cleveland. The Gallery eventually became unviable, but Bruno Casiano continues to know and be known by most artists in the area.

Numero. 3, Mixed Medium, 12"x12", \$300, 2022

Cordero, Mixed Medium, 12"x12", \$300, 2022

El Carusel, Mixed Medium, 12"x12", \$300, 2022

El Verde, Mixed Medium, 12"x12", \$300, 2022

Sombrero, Mixed Medium, 12"x12", \$300, 2022

Television, Mixed Medium, 12"x12", \$300, 2022

Valla Fores, Mixed Medium, 12"x12", \$300, 2022

Algo Humano, Mixed Medium, 12"x12", \$300, 2022

Yiyun Chen

ARTIST STATEMENT

My process for making works comes out of my daily practice of walking around and photographing unfamiliar places, such as in the streets of small towns and cities, parks, and the interiors of buildings. There is a repetition of motifs throughout most of my work, visualizing the contradiction between old memories and my current reality. This practice reminds me of my early experiences living in the States. Whenever I had days off from work, I would walk around the Chinatown area, looking at the street lamps, mailboxes, and old confusing posters that were stuck on the walls of the city. Sometimes I would sit in a parking lot or watch TV shows in the laundry. The practices of photographing and thinking are referenced in the concept of boredom as a function of attention, described in Susan Sontag's book 'As Consciousness Is Harnessed to Flesh: Journals and Notebooks, 1964–1980'. Sontag points out that “most of the interesting art of our time is boring.” Finding something interesting and enjoying the playfulness in its boredom is my process of shooting. I was drawn to this concept of boredom and attention in photography, using it to create a romantic and poetic communication of my inner meditations -- visualizing the experience as a person navigating different cultures, social expectations, and realities. I realized that I was looking for a picture similar to my superimposition of past and present in the physical world, a conversation between my emotions and reality.

BIOGRAPHY

Yiyun Chen is a Cleveland-based artist whose photographic work and photobooks have been exhibited in Wausau MOCA, Zanesville Museum of Art, Ohio University, Indiana University Kokomo, Rochester Institute of Technology, Cleveland State University, Cleveland Institute of Art, Lakeland Community College, San Joaquin Delta College, Colorado Photographic Arts Center, Ann Arbor Art Center, Gallery 263 in Cambridge, PH21 gallery in Hungary, and Loosen Art Gallery in Italy. (Etc.) Chen's works could also be seen as part of the collections of the Cleveland Art Association, Mandel Foundation, Rochester Institute of Technology, and Cleveland State University.

Chen was born and raised in Guangdong, China, and made his move to the United States when he was 20. As part of a first generation of Chinese American immigrants, his first jobs landed him in Asian supermarkets and restaurants. When it came to those "off from work" days, he picked up a camera and started taking pictures to explore the areas outside of the Chinatown. After a few months of settling into the new country, Chen returned to school -- first to complete his high school diploma. In 2015, he received his Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art from Cleveland State University. He was invited into the Post-Bachelor Program at the Cleveland Institute of Art, where he continued his studies in photography and video. In 2018, Chen earned his MFA in photography and related media from Rochester Institute of Technology, where he was also a recipient of the Theodore Chapman and William A. Reedy Endowment Scholarship in support of graduate studies.

Yiyun Chen *continued*

Snow Day, Pigment Print, 32"x40"x2", \$2000, 2022

Monday Afternoon, Pigment Print, 32"x40"x2", \$2000, 2021

School Bus, Pigment Print, 16"x20"x2", \$400, 2019

Summer, Pigment Print, 16"x20"x2", \$400, 2022

Love, Pigment Print, 16"x20"x2", \$400, 2021

Ship, Pigment Print, 16"x20"x2", \$400, 2019

Relationship, Pigment Print, 8"x10"x2", \$100, 2021

Look Up, Pigment Print, 20"x16"x2" each, \$1000, 2021

Charlotte A. Lees

ARTIST STATEMENT

After exploring various mediums, I settled on wood sculpture. Nature has been my inspiration. I gather impressions and store them in my memory bank to be later transformed into unique works of art. Recently, I have started to explore the challenging technique of wood bending as a process to create unique wall sculptures. To some of the shapes I have added handmade paper, paint, and embossed metal. I have found wood bending to be a creative and exciting technique.

Content is important and I strive to present a reimaged view of our surroundings. I am constantly trying to increase my artistic vocabulary by exploring my world through Fresh Eyes.

BIOGRAPHY

I am a "Life Long Learner." I am intrigued by the process of how something is created. At an early age, I started taking Saturday classes at the Copper School of Art, The Cleveland Museum of Art, and the Cleveland Institute of Art. After graduating from Bedford High School, I continued my studies at Bowling Green State University and went on for a Master's at Case Western Reserve and the Cleveland Institute of Art. I taught art for 8 years at Bedford High School, raised a family, and then decided to pursue my goal to create art.

I have exhibited at the Ohio Governor's Residence, Butler Museum of American Art, Massillon Museum, Southern Ohio Museum, and the Cleveland May Show. I have completed many public sculptures. Some are located in Rockville, Md., Columbus, Ohio, Peoples Bank, Munster, In., and Hobe Sound, Florida. I continue to exhibit at local and national shows.

Bent Wood Series #24, Wood, Handmade paper, metal, 12"x24"x2", \$450, 2023

Bentwood Series #20, Wood, paint, 21"x20"x4", \$750, 2022

Organ Pipe IX, Wood, Paint, 48" x 3" x 3", \$300, 2020

Organ Pipe XXI, Wood, paint, metal, 42" x 3" x3", \$300, 2019

Organ Pipe VII, wood, paint, metal, 31"x3"x2", \$300, 2019

Organ Pipe XXXIV, Wood, paint, 31"x4"x2.5", \$300, 2020

The View, Landscape Screen, wood, metal, paint, 16"x4"x4", \$450, 2019

Column I Birds, Bees, Flowers, Embossed metal, paint, wood, 32"x7"x7", \$550, 2018

Column II, Embossed metal, wood, paint, 24"x6.5"x6.5", \$400, 2018

Wetlands XI, Cherry wood, Ashwood, paint, 22"x12"x1", \$450, 2020

Wetlands VII, Cherry wood, paint, 14"x10", \$375, 2020

Donald Penn

ARTIST STATEMENT

Don Penn got eyes that see way more than you and me. With photographic antecedents like Gjon Mili, Harold Doc Edgerton, and even Eadweard Muybridge, Penn dives deep beyond the two or three dimensions that most of us accept as the domain of the medium of photography. By stretching his visual scope to include the third (and often the fourth) dimension of time, beyond that of space, the images he presents force us to embrace and think about a time/space Einsteinian universe that is a visual and mental challenge on a number of fronts. When we look at the work of Don Penn, with its many layers and dimensions and its incredibly lush palette, the interaction is never simple or straightforward. By showing us, for example, an image of the Japanese Butoh Dancer Minami Azu in action, in the space she occupies, or a man on the street in Havana with a glittering multi-dimensional car, or even when we see the many facets of the barn series in rich black and white, we are transported in ways that a “straight” photograph never could transport us. You won’t want to rush through his works of photographs the way you would in a normal exhibition. You will be greatly rewarded for taking the time to savor the dimensional nuances of this remarkable body of work.

BIOGRAPHY

Don Penn’s passion for photography has spanned many decades. After a very successful business career, he has reignited his love for photography. He studied with Dan Levin at Tri-C, and, through those classes, developed a multi-image technique. This technique shows many dimensions of the subject and incorporates the surrounding environment to provide the viewer a rich experience while observing the image. Don partakes in photo shoots in New York City, Cuba, and elsewhere, and his art has appeared in many local shows.

Cleveland at Night, Archival Pigment Print, 24"x30", \$375, 2020

Butoh Dancing, Archival Pigment Print, 27"x38", \$375, 2018

Nude in Painting, Archival Pigment Print, 31"x31", \$325, 2020

Barn and Fence, Archival Pigment Print, 20"x30", \$325, 2015

Cuba Man in Street, Archival Pigment Print, 31"x21", \$325, 2019

Cleveland from Gordon Park, Archival Pigment Print, 24"x24", \$325, 2017

VOLUNTEER FOR A HEIGHTS ARTS COMMUNITY TEAM

Heights Arts has a long history of inviting the community to share their passion and expertise to help the Organization develop and present its public programming. Three ongoing Volunteer Community Teams are charged with facilitating the strategies and action plans for Heights Arts core programming in the literary, musical, and visual arts disciplines. The purpose of Heights Arts' community teams is to expand community engagement in developing and presenting the programs of the organization and to tap into the significant expertise that resides in our community. We invite poets, musicians, artists, and other members of the community to work with us to select and showcase the region's visual artists, poets, and musicians in our literary, musical, and exhibition programming.

To read more about our community teams and submit an application, visit us [HERE](#)

BECOME A HEIGHTS ARTS MEMBER

Now more than ever we appreciate your consideration to give to Heights Arts by becoming a member. As a member of Heights Arts, you receive discounts, special invitations, and members-only events, as well as perks from our community partners. Your membership is tax-deductible and you have the opportunity to say you're helping to support local artists, musicians, creative writers, and public art in the community. You'll have your finger on the pulse of all things Heights Arts. What are you waiting for?

Join us today! Membership information can be found on our website [HERE](#)

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