

MATTEAWAN GALLERY

duets

Jill Baroff & Stefana McClure
Karlos Carcamo & Eleanor White
Matt Frieburghaus & Laura Kaufman
Meg Hitchcock & Kurt Steger

February 14 - March 8, 2015

Opening reception Saturday, February 14, 6-9 pm

Matteawan Gallery is pleased to present *duets*, a group exhibition featuring the work of four couples: Jill Baroff & Stefana McClure, Karlos Carcamo & Eleanor White, Matt Frieburghaus & Laura Kaufman, and Meg Hitchcock & Kurt Steger. The exhibition opens on February 14 and runs through March 8, 2015.

Duets brings together four artist couples from the New York area whose work has a similar reliance on process and concept. It is interesting to see how the work of two people who live together can be similar or different; how ideas and experiences they share are expressed in their art. In some cases there is much common ground, but in others there is very little obvious connection. In the end, viewing the couples' work side by side is a compelling way to acknowledge their shared lives.

Jill Baroff uses computer data about tides as a starting point to create circular ink drawings. Employing an intricate process, the movements of tides are mapped out on Japanese Gampi paper. In *Katrina*, Baroff documents the rising waters of a hurricane. The drawing is not simply a chart containing scientific facts; the social and environmental impact of Katrina is felt in the fragility of the lines. Baroff's tide drawings are idiosyncratic and expressive, mapping time as well as a specific location. **Stefana McClure's** triptych of drawings *Amores Perros III, El Chivo and Maru: Japanese subtitles to a film by Alejandro González Iñárritu* is from her series *Films on Paper* that makes reference to the structure and visual properties of written language. To create these drawings, she has inscribed the subtitles of an entire film on transfer paper in multiple layers on top of one another in the same formatting as the original film. The hours of dialogue are reduced to ghostly lines at the bottom of the drawing. Baroff and McClure's artistic practices share an interest in process and the implementation of systems by which to create their work. In their own way, each is exploring themes of human communication and our attempts to make sense of the world around us.

Karlos Cárcamo's work is influenced by modernist abstraction and art history, while making references to urban culture, music, street art and graffiti. In *Untitled (Color Study) JA*, hard-edged geometric abstraction is combined with the gestural flow of spray paint lines. Cárcamo uses a process of layering, graffiti tagging, and mixed media collage to create work that explores the complex relationship between high and low culture. **Eleanor White's** drawings and sculptures are created using familiar materials in unusual ways. She has worked with playing cards, eggshells, liquor bottles, pins, dried flowers, and dandelion fluff to create work that is about repetition, geometry, process, pattern, and time. For her rose petal drawing in *duets*, White ground up dried roses and mixed the powder with a liquid medium, creating a natural paint with a slightly sweet odor and a velvety texture. She uses

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red roses, perhaps the most sentimental of all flowers, to create modernist geometric patterns. While their work is very different, Cárcamo and White are both interested in juxtaposing materials and imagery from disparate sources.

Matt Frieburghaus manipulates recorded media to create sound works, videos, and digital prints that explore the relationship between sight and sound. His process of extracting digital information creates new sensory experiences and often calls attention to minute details that would otherwise have gone unnoticed. *Valley* is a digital print made from the sampled colors of a landscape video. The mountains, sky, and water are reduced to their most basic elements, yet still have the characteristics of a specific place, in this case a remote part of Iceland where Frieburghaus attended an artist residency last summer.

Laura Kaufman is primarily a sculptor who uses basic materials such as felt, graphite, wood, and aluminum. Her work is often shaped by hand, allowing her to bend, fold, and weave materials in a way that hovers between drawing and sculpture. Kaufman is interested in the challenge of understanding scale in the natural world, and making work on a human scale is an extension of this exploration. Her felt construction *Shrug* uses repeating patterns to signify endless space, while also referencing folk traditions of ornamentation and decoration. Frieburghaus and Kaufman are a bit like scientists deconstructing the natural world, one using technology, and the other using materials crafted by hand.

Meg Hitchcock takes apart sacred texts and literature and reassembles them to form a passage from another book. In *Prayer to the Mother of God*, letters and text from the erotic novel *The Story of O* by Pauline Reage are cut out to form the words of a prayer, mixing the two texts and blurring their original meanings. Hitchcock's work is a celebration of the diverse experiences of spirituality and the universal need for connection with something greater than oneself. **Kurt Steger** is interested in collaborating with nature as both inspiration and raw material. His sculptures are finely constructed with simple earth-based materials – wood, string, paper and pigments. Steger's work in *duets* is a kind of shamanic implement, a metaphoric weapon devised to wake up inner realms and explore our collective primal existence. Both artists are concerned with the spiritual and philosophical aspects of life. They are searching for new meanings in the familiar and for a human awareness that goes beyond time and culture.

About the artists

Jill Baroff's work has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions in museums and galleries including Bartha Contemporary, London, UK; Galerie Christian Lethert, Cologne, Germany; Gallery Joe, Philadelphia, PA; and Kunstraum Metropol, Munich, Germany. Her work was included in recent group exhibitions at Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg, Germany; Columbus Museum, Columbus, GA; Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick, ME; The Hafnarborg/Hafnarfjordur Center of Culture and Fine Art, Hafnarfjordur, Iceland; and the Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. Baroff has received numerous grants and fellowships, including an Artist's Fellowship at The Field Institute, Museum Insel Hombroich, Germany, the New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship Grant/Lily Auchincloss Fellow; Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation Grant; National Endowment for the Arts, US-Japan Exchange Fellowship; MacDowell Colony Artist Fellowships and grants from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation. Baroff's work has appeared in *Art on Paper*, *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Art in America*, *Art News*, and *Artforum*, among numerous other publications. She received a BA from Antioch University, Yellow Springs, OH, and did Post Graduate Studies at Hunter College, New York. Baroff and Stefana McClure live near Newburgh, NY.

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Karlos Cárcamo has exhibited extensively in New York, including at the Brooklyn Museum and BRIC House, Brooklyn, NY; The Bronx Museum of the Arts; MoMA PS1 and Queens Museum of Contemporary Art, Queens, NY; El Museo del Barrio, Artists Space, Lower Eastside Printshop, and Hionas Gallery, NY; The Wassaic Project, Wassaic, NY; Rochester Contemporary Art Center, NY; and Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, NY. He has shown internationally at Museo de Arte de El Salvador (MARTE), San Salvador, El Salvador, and his work has been included in numerous group exhibitions nationally. Cárcamo participated in The Bronx Museum's Artist in the Marketplace Program, was a resident at Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Maine, and he was awarded a Special Editions Residency at the Lower Eastside Printshop, New York, NY. His work has been reviewed in *Art in America*, *The New York Times*, and *The Village Voice*, among other publications. Cárcamo is represented by Hionas Gallery, New York. He has a BFA from the School of Visual Arts and an MFA from Hunter College, both in New York. He and Eleanor White live near Beacon, NY.

Matt Frieurghaus has exhibited in numerous galleries, museums, and festivals including Boston Cyberarts Gallery; *Bronx Calling: The Second AIM Biennial*, Bronx, NY; *FILE*, Art Gallery of SESI-SP, Sao Paulo, Brazil; Garrison Art Center, Garrison, NY; Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art and Westchester Community College Center for the Digital Arts, Peekskill, NY; Newhouse Center for Contemporary Art, Staten Island, NY; Foster Gallery at the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, WI; Hartell Gallery at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY; Lowe Art Gallery at Syracuse University; and *Work • Ann Arbor* at the University of Michigan. His work is the subject of a solo exhibition in February 2015 at Steel Plant Gallery, Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY. Frieurghaus' work was included in *Timelines*, the inaugural exhibition at Matteawan Gallery in 2013. In 2014, Frieurghaus participated in the Nes artist residency in Iceland. He received an MFA in Computer Art from Syracuse University, and a BFA in Animation from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. He is currently Associate Professor of Digital Media at Marist College. Frieurghaus and Laura Kaufman live in Cold Spring, NY.

Meg Hitchcock's work has been included in several exhibitions in 2015, including a solo show at Randall Scott Gallery, Baltimore, MD and a group show at Margaret Thatcher Projects in New York. In recent years her work was shown in gallery and museum exhibitions in the US and abroad, including the Crystal Bridges Museum in Bentonville, AR; *Scream*, London, UK; Studio10 Gallery, Brooklyn, NY; ACA Gallery, New York; Salisbury University Gallery, Salisbury, MD; Friesen Gallery, Sun Valley, ID; BRIC, Brooklyn, NY; Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY; and Town Hall Gallery, Boroondara, Australia. Hitchcock participated in the Bronx Museum: AIM program in 2011. Her work has been reviewed in *Art in America*, *ArtCritical*, *The New Criterion*, *Huffington Post*, *Hyperallergic*, and *The Daily Beast*. She received a BFA in painting from the San Francisco Art Institute, and studied classical painting in Florence, Italy. Hitchcock and Kurt Steger live in Brooklyn, NY.

Laura Kaufman has exhibited nationally, including a solo exhibition at BAU, Beacon, NY, and numerous group exhibitions in New York and New England. Her work was shown at the Woodstock Artists Association & Museum, Woodstock, NY; Biers Gallery at Columbus College of Art and Design, Columbus, OH; Field Projects Gallery, NY; Wassaic Project, Wassaic, NY; AIM Biennial, Bronx Museum of Art, Bronx, NY; and Hillel Project Gallery, Brown University, Providence, RI. In 2012, she received an outdoor sculpture commission on Randall's Island, NY as part of the *First AIM Biennial* and with the support of the Rockefeller Foundation. Awards and residencies include Artist in the Marketplace, Bronx Museum of Art, Bronx, NY; Vermont Studio Center Fellowship, Johnson, VT, and in 2008 Kaufman was

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named Museum Educator of the Year by the Connecticut Art Educators Association. Her work has appeared in publications including *The New York Times*, *The Outdoor New Yorker* (blog), and the *New York Daily News*. She received an MFA in sculpture from the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI and a BA in studio art from Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY. Kaufman and Matt Frieburghaus live in Cold Spring, NY.

Stefana McClure has exhibited extensively both nationally and internationally. Her work has been the subject of solo exhibitions at Bartha Contemporary, London, UK; Dublin Contemporary, Dublin, Ireland; Josée Bienvenu Gallery, New York; ArtON, Bonn, Germany; Galerie Für Zeichnung, Berlin, Germany; and Galerie Yvon Lambert, Paris, France. Her work was included in recent group exhibitions at UB Anderson Gallery, University at Buffalo, the State University of New York; Islip Art Museum, East Islip, NY; Columbus Museum, Columbus, GA; Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; The Zimmerli Art Museum, New Brunswick, NJ; and Hafnarborg/Hafnarfjordur Center of Culture and Fine Art, Hafnarfjordur, Iceland. McClure's work has appeared in numerous publications including the *New York Times*, *Hyperallergic*, and *Architectural Digest*. She was an Artist in Residence at Field Institute Hombroich, Stiftung Insel Hombroich, Neuss, Germany and is a recipient of a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant. She received a BA in Sculpture from Hornsey College of Art, London, and did Post-graduate studies in papermaking at Kyoto Seika University, Kyoto, Japan. McClure and Jill Baroff live near Newburgh, NY.

Kurt Steger's work was shown recently at Valentine Gallery and ArtHelix, Brooklyn, NY; City Drift, Portland, ME; Artifact, New York, NY; Les Yeux de Monde, Charlottesville, VA; and the Smithsonian Museum, National Portrait Gallery, Washington, DC. He has exhibited throughout Virginia, with exhibitions at Olin Hall, Roanoke College, Salem; Selden Gallery, Norfolk; Perspectives Gallery, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; SDFA Gallery at The Jacksonville Center for the Arts, Floyd; as well as the Columbus Cultural Arts Center, Columbus, OH; Haines Gallery, Nevada City, CA; Northern California Center of the Arts, Grass Valley, CA; and Sonoma Museum of Visual Art, Santa Rosa, CA. Steger was awarded public art commissions in Grass Valley and Sacramento, CA. He and Meg Hitchcock live in Brooklyn, NY.

Eleanor White has exhibited nationally, with a recent solo exhibition in The Beacon Room, BAU, Beacon, NY. In 2014 she participated in group exhibitions at The Garrison Art Center, Garrison, NY and KMoCA, Kingston, NY. Her work has been shown at Van Brunt Gallery, Beacon, NY; Gallery 13, Danbury, CT; Bethel Woods Art Center, Bethel, NY; Art Miami, Miami, FL (exhibiting with Dean Project Miami); Westchester Community College, Valhalla, NY; Kenise Barnes Fine Arts, Larchmont, NY; Byrdcliffe Kleinert/James Center for the Arts, Woodstock, NY; Deutsche Bank Art Collection, New York, NY; and the Hammond Museum, North Salem, NY. White was a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellow in Printmaking/Drawing/Artists' Books, and participated in an artist residency at Bemis Center for Contemporary Art, Omaha, Nebraska. She received a BFA from Virginia Commonwealth University and an MFA from Maryland Institute College of Art. White and Cárcamo live near Beacon, NY.

For additional information please contact Karlyn Benson at info@matteawan.com.