

Saturday, October 18 - PROXY

11 a.m. — Sounds

Stanley Zappa and Stephen Linsley

A musical performance of noise and sorrow.

12 p.m. — Artist Walkthrough

Jayson Mittman & Yulya Valuy

A walkthrough with artists.

1 p.m. — On Sex and Death

Mike Bryant & Jade Smrz

A conversation with a fish biologist and an artist on chimeras.

2 p.m. — On Unnamable Disaster

Andrew Culp

A lecture on legibility, wake work, refusal.

3 p.m. — Group Reading

Rowland Smith III, Kini Sosa, Khalifa, Marta Brecht, Farah Abouzeid

A group reading responding to Proxy.

Sunday, October 19 - CHIMERA

11 a.m. — Curatorial Walkthrough

Erika Keck and Catherine Wang

A walkthrough with artists.

12 p.m. — On painting placeness

Ranu Mukherjee & Catherine Wang

A conversation with a painter and an artist on scenic spatiality and landscape painting.

1 p.m. — Group Reading

Rowland Smith III, Gio Alonzi, NK, Natanjah Discroll Harvey, Erica Min

A group reading of creative writing alums responding to Chimera.

2 p.m. — Donor Walkthrough

Cameron Masters, Faculty, Exhibition and Production Assistants

A walkthrough of the exhibition for people who have supported CalArts.

2 p.m. — Poker Tournament

Rocky Hayden

An introductory game of risk and chance for beginners with special prizes.

2 p.m. — Sounds

Stanley Zappa and Stephen Linsley

A musical performance of noise and sorrow.

3 p.m. — Artist Walkthrough

Kiko Thomas

A walkthrough of the exhibition with an artist.

Stanley J. Zappa is an American musician who plays clarinet and saxophone. He studied improvisation with Bill Dixon and Milford Graves at Bennington College. He graduated from the Aesthetics & Politics program at CalArts. He is working on a book about Bill Dixon that engages with archival materials.

Stephen Linsley is a fine artist working in photography, video installation and music. He was a founding member of the Jim Carroll Band. He has produced numerous records. He is currently working on a Book of Portraits of Older Punk Rock Musicians.

Jayson Mittman is an artist, writer, and researcher. His practice encompasses sculpture and video, animation and computation, as well as interactive / immersive media. @mittmos

Yulya Valuy x Dasha Avdeeva are interdisciplinary artists. With a background in digital marketing and social media, Yulya looks into the construction of digital and physical identities and the role misinformation and technological advancement play in shaping them. In work with her collaborator, Dasha is a painter. She talks about emotional + intimate entanglement with media and visual culture, identity formation and perception, the tension of separation between the self and the absorbed visual elements. Together, the works mix personal memories with cultural images and expectations, turning their friendship experiences into a reflection on how identity, media, and the body can blur into unrealistic forms. yulyavaluy.com. dahakaumresh.wixsite.com/umreshakadashik

Mike Bryant (he/him) is an educator, a biologist, and a statistician. His research on behavioral and evolutionary ecology has appeared in prominent science journals such as Science, Nature, American Naturalist, Ecology, PLoS, and Animal Behaviour. His education research has appeared in the Journal of Educational Psychology and in Art Documentation. Mike transformed his interests in functional anatomy, animal behavior, life history evolution, population dynamics, and statistics into the development of 14 science and math courses. These include courses in environmental science, conservation, genetics, evolution, nutrition, data science and visualization, and the history of mathematics.

Jade Smrz is a sculptor. Her work explores the transfeminine body and its relationship to power, myth, and world-making. Utilizing needle-felted wool and 3D modeling, she creates a somatic dialogue between her body, virtual space, and physical material. What emerges is a practice that is both meditative and visceral. jadelucia.com

Andrew Culp (PhD, The Ohio State University, 2013), serves as the Director of the MA Aesthetics and Politics program at CalArts, where he teaches Media History and Theory in the School of Critical Studies. Culp's work intersects media, technology, politics, and philosophy in journals such as Radical Philosophy, parallax, symplokē, and boundary 2 online. He has

contributed to various books and actively engages contemporary thought through interviews, essays, and dialogues.

Kini Sosa is a teaching artist and poet from San Diego, CA. A recent Creative Writing MFA graduate from the California Institute of the Arts, she also holds a BA in Creative Writing from the University of California, Riverside and has previously taught at the UVA Young Writers Workshop, Inlandia's Poetry is Power Institution, and the California State Summer School for the Arts. Their practice consists of graphic text and poetry with an emphasis on liminal human forms, intimacy, trauma, queerness, the "feminine grotesque," and the visual / literary translations of images. You can find her work in the Mosaic Arts Literary Magazine, Experiencing Comics: An Introduction to Reading, Discussing, and Creating Comics, Rejoinder, pacificREVIEW, and other publications.

Khalifa is a (cat) mother, biological scientist & poet born & raised in Saudi Arabia. Their writing style mimics journal entries & dialogue - intimate & uncomfortable-, in which they simultaneously recount their lived experiences & rebel against the ways of a cruel world.

Rowland Smith III (They/Them) is an award-winning immersive storyteller based in Los Angeles, California. Having earned both a B.F.A. in Acting and a B.A. in English Literature from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in 2022, they then went on to earn an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from the California Institute of the Arts in 2024. Hybridizing prose and narrative screenplay, Rowland's writing weaves together elements of Korean folklore and western dramatic literature to capture dreams melting into reality. Their work may be found online, at trans.monster, and fiftywordstories.com, or in physical collections such as De/Catnect, UMBC Bartleby 2021-2022, or Strip Mall Magazine Fall 2024, among others.

Marta Brecht is a Los Angeles based writer and lover of all things fiction. She earned an MFA in creative writing at the California Institute of the Arts. When she's not reading and writing, you can usually find her letting expletives slip out of her mouth on the sidelines of a youth sports game.

Natanjah Driscoll Harvey is a Poet and Writer/Performer from Philadelphia. A native of both east and west coast of the U.S. they are a Black, nonbinary author of the chapbook, "A Bubble On The Sea." (Published in 2022; Bottlecap Press) They use scrap language to talk about love and the world; the faith provoked by sparkly garbage on the street. They are a visual artist as well as a writer of audio poetry published in 2023 by Tilted House Magazine, "Three Audio Poems." In 2025, they are earning their M.F.A. in creative writing at CalArts's Critical Studies Program, set to graduate 2026. They work in partnership with life works; through writings, visual and audio projects.

Giovani Alonzi holds an MFA in Creative Writing from CalArts, where his thesis was awarded the Emi Kuriyama Memorial Thesis Award. His writing has appeared in Fence, Los Angeles Review of Books, rivulet, Full Stop, & elsewhere.

Primarily a poet, his work often investigates mutations & iterations of "whiteness." Of late, he has been writing a reimagining of the Homeric cyclops Polyphemus as a familial, commercial, and national ancestor. He teaches writing composition at California State University Northridge in both the English Department & the Department of Central American & Transborder Studies. A 3rd-generation Angeleno from the SFV, he, his wife & their daughter live in West Los Angeles on Tongva land.

Farah Abouzeid (she/her) is a writer from Monterey, California. She studied Literature and Writing at UCSD and received her MFA in Creative Writing from CalArts. Her work has been published in Dreamboy Book Club, Strip Mall Magazine, Fruitslice, Prism, and The South Carolina Review.

Catherine Wang is a painter. Her practice is deeply interested in the narratives we create around place. Her paintings incorporate both detailed representation based on closely observing her surroundings and a gestural looseness that draws on Daoist principles behind traditional Chinese landscape painting. She plays with perspective and light in her compositions to create a sense of disorientation, a feeling that is both central to the immigrant experience and will continue to permeate more lives, with the advance of climate change and sociopolitical unrest.
@c_y_uu

Erika Keck is a painter or a sculptor. Thinking of painting as a surrogate for the body, Keck emphasizes process, materiality and concepts through critical (ir)reverences that trouble fixed meanings and normative structures. For her painting is a way of asking questions without providing clear answers.erikakeck.com

Ranu Mukherjee was appointed dean of the largest of CalArts' six schools of visual and performing arts in 2024. Before joining CalArts, she was a professor and chair of Film at California College of the Arts in San Francisco (CCA), where she also was on the faculty of the Graduate Fine Art Program, serving terms as chair and assistant chair. Before moving to California, she spent eight years on faculty in Visual Arts at Goldsmiths College, University of London. CalArts' history of radical pedagogy and visionary artwork has long been an influence on her. She finds the way the School of Film/Video holds together distinctive models and resources in an environment of personal choice, to support students' vision and creation, endlessly inspiring--particularly in this moment when the critical role moving images play in the culture at large cannot be overstated. As a multidisciplinary artist and filmmaker, Ranu works with animation and choreography, painting, textiles, installation, and performance. She connects questions around ecology, time, diaspora, and the experiences of women to the history of futurisms, speculative fiction, and ruptured colonial legacies. She also takes an ecology-based approach to pedagogy and leadership, informed by living questions and a focus on open dialogue, collective health, and artistic innovation.

Erica Min is an editor, writer, and gemini moon. Research interests include power, narrativity, and anticolonial artworks. She was a Viola Hegyi Swisher Scholar in Aesthetics & Politics in the School of Critical

Studies at California Institute of the Arts. They were a Victoria Foyt Fellow at Los Angeles Review of Books and in the Emerging Editor Program at Penguin Random House. They were formerly book editing at One World. Her current publication projects are collaborations with Erika Keck, Kiko Thomas, and Cevera Yoon Gallery.

Siqi Fan is a multidisciplinary artist. She works across sculpture, photography, and experimental documentary. She is drawn to broken fragments, worn surfaces, and discarded objects that have lost their original function. Through sculpture and time-based media, she explores how meaning is reshaped when a certain orientation collapses – and how new ways of sensing arise through disruption. francesfsq.com
AJaeCea Carlie x Luisa Pinzon are transdisciplinary artists working through hybrid practices. AJaeCea works across photography, sculpture, performance, writing, science and biotechnology. They transform discarded objects and develop biomaterials to engage contemporary social and political issues. Luisa is an audio engineer, musician, and visual artist. Her current projects explore marine species, their sounds, how we can learn from them and interspecies play. Together, they are exploring environmental care, interspecies relationships, alternative forms of knowledge, communal healing, immigration, and queer transgender disabled experiences. ajcarlie.com luisapinzon.com

Cameron Masters is program manager of the CalArts Reef Residency. He is a painter with a background in artist-run spaces, commercial galleries, and museums.

Rocky Hayden is a visual artist. His art making practice is created around the tension between these two systems: risk-strategy and chance. He works with gestures that express present moments, instances or "spots". rockyhayden.com

Kiko Thomas is a multidisciplinary artist and educator. His work embodies the definition of a nomadic artist living in an act of flight, escape, and fugitivity. Through these lived experiences, they raise decolonial discussions about borders that divide subjectivity and objectivity. kikothomas.com