



Exhibition Artwork for Bedrooms Draws New Narrative Between Artists Tauba Auerbach, Sarah Cain, Ajit Chauhan, Veronica DeJesus, Colter Jacobsen, Sahar Khoury, Alicia McCarthy, and Will Rogan

And Features Rarely Seen Works

On view at CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Art March 15–May 12, 2018



Colter Jacobsen. "Waterfall Mask", 2000. Courtesy of the artist.

San Francisco, CA–February 15, 2018–Artwork for Bedrooms tells the story of eight artists living and working in San Francisco during the years 2000–2008, a period that until now has been framed by the Mission School, an art movement in which artists were known for sprawling, colorful assemblages that took inspiration from graffiti culture. Artwork for Bedrooms draws a

new and parallel narrative from the same moment of young artists who were similarly invested in “poor” materials, but who put them to work in more abstract, fragile, or conceptual ways. On view from March 15–May 12, 2018, the exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue of exhibited works featuring an oral history as well as a series of public programs.

Where the Mission School was often loud and immersive, the works in *Artwork for Bedrooms* are introverted, obsessive, time-intensive and poetic. They are self-contained and demand close looking. These works include Sarah Cain’s paintings on dry leaves, Ajit Chauhan’s abstractions on found paper, and a work by Tauba Auerbach in which she has used every key on a vintage typewriter to hammer away at a single character, producing an intense black dot. Alicia McCarthy will also recreate an installation she built for a Mission gallery in 2003, a landmark work for other artists in the show.

Artifacts of a relatively recent past, these works were made in San Francisco when the city had already been transformed by the tech industry. Rents had risen dramatically and many subcultural spaces had closed. Nascent forms of social media were starting to change how people interacted. As they challenged themselves to transform rough materials into serious art, the artists featured in the exhibition grappled with how the tech industry was affecting their minds, sex lives, and the city where they lived.

The title of the exhibition, *Artwork for Bedrooms*, refers to the intimate premises where many of the works were made, and where some were first publicly shown. Moreover the title signals the personal or intimate character of the work. Informed by close conversation and research with the artists, many of the works on view were gifts, trades or collaborations among the artists in the show.

Artwork for Bedrooms is organized and curated by CCA’s 2018 class of the Graduate Program in Curatorial Practice including Maddie Klett, Zhaoyu Lin, MK Meador, Cristiane Ulson Quercia, Rosa Tyhurst, and Qinyue Xu.

ABOUT CATALOGUE AND ORAL HISTORY

A publication accompanies the exhibition, and presents a catalogue of exhibited works alongside an oral history of the period drawn from an extensive series of interviews. Featuring the artists in the exhibition, the oral history expands into their vibrant community of artists, gallerists, musicians and poets, including Tariq Alvi, Devendra Banhart, Amanda Eicher, Matt Gonzalez, Jack Hanley, Xylor Jane, Kevin Killian, Donal Mosher, Darryl Smith, Margaret Tedesco, and others.

ABOUT PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Public programs organized in conjunction with the exhibition include:

- A musical performance by The Dirty Ditches at the exhibition’s opening (March 15, 2018 at 7:00 pm in the CCA Wattis galleries).

- A conversation between artists Sarah Cain, Colter Jacobsen, and Sahar Khoury organized in partnership with the McRoskey Mattress Company (Friday, March 23 from 7:00–9:00 pm at the McRoskey Mattress Company, 1687 Market Street, San Francisco).

About CCA's Graduate Program in Curatorial Practice

CCA's Graduate Program in Curatorial Practice is a two-year program designed to give students a deep understanding of art, artists, galleries, and museums in order to empower their work in the art world. Its learning environment is highly interdisciplinary, offering students exposure to industrial and graphic design, architecture, visual culture studies, and conversations around sustainability in order to inform their developing practice. Alongside faculty, students work with visiting artists, writers, curators, and other museum professionals from large-scale institutions to emerging nonprofits. The acclaimed CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts is an invaluable resource for the program and the site for students' culminating exhibition.

While considering broad themes, such as the politics of space or the tension between the virtual and physical, the program concentrates on the role of the curator as a productive agent, a synthesizer of ideas, and a positive mediator who builds bridges between artists, ideas and audiences. Drawing from the history of art, design, and visual culture, it provides students the intellectual resources they need to engage critically and creatively with contemporary visual culture. This pedagogical activity and research coalesces to provide students the strategic and analytic skills required for curating innovative exhibitions, organizing stimulating public programs, and writing meaningful texts.

About California College of the Arts

Founded in 1907, California College of the Arts (CCA) educates students to shape culture and society through the practice and critical study of art, architecture, design, and writing. Benefitting from its San Francisco Bay Area location, the college prepares students for lifelong creative work by cultivating innovation, community engagement, and social and environmental responsibility.

CCA offers a rich curriculum of 22 undergraduate and 13 graduate programs in art, design, architecture, and writing taught by a faculty of expert practitioners and attracts promising students from across the United States and from 55 countries around the world. Graduates are highly sought after by companies such as Pixar/Disney, Apple, Intel, Facebook, Gensler, Google, IDEO, Autodesk, Mattel, and Nike, and many have launched their own successful businesses.

CCA is creating a new, expanded college campus at its current site in San Francisco that will open in the 2021–2022 academic year. Spearheaded by Studio Gang architects, the new campus design will be a model of [sustainable construction and practice](#), will unite the College's programs in art, crafts, design, architecture and writing in one location to create new adjacencies and interactions, and will provide [more student housing](#) than ever.

For more information, visit cca.edu

About the CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts

Founded in 1998 at California College of the Arts in San Francisco and located a few blocks from its campus, CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts is a nonprofit exhibition venue and research institute dedicated to contemporary art and ideas. As an exhibition space, it commissions and shows new work by emerging and established artists from around the world.

Recent solo exhibitions include Howard Fried: Derelicts; Laura Owens: Ten Paintings; Jos de Gruyter & Harald Thys: Tram 3 (which traveled to MoMA PS1); Josephine Pryde: Lapses in Thinking by the Person I Am (which traveled to ICA Philadelphia and earned Pryde a 2016 Turner Prize nomination); Sam Lewitt: More Heat Than Light (which traveled to Kunsthalle Basel and the Swiss Institute, New York); and Ellen Cantor: Cinderella Syndrome (which traveled to Künstlerhaus Stuttgart). On March 15, 2018 it will also open a major solo institutional presentation of Vancouver School artist, Ken Lum titled What's old is old for a dog.

VISITOR INFORMATION

On view: March 15–May 12, 2018

Opening reception: Thursday, March 15, 6:30–8:30 pm. **Musical performance:** 7pm.

Location: CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, 360 Kansas Street (between 16th and 17th Streets), San Francisco

Gallery hours: Tuesday–Saturday, 12:00 pm–6:00 pm; closed Sunday and Monday

Admission: Free

Information: 415.355.9673 or visit cca.edu, wattis.org

Panel Event: Friday, March 23, 7:00-8:30 pm

Location: McRoskey Mattress Company, 1687 Market Street, San Francisco

MEDIA CONTACT

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