

HOMIENS

MEET THE ARTISTS



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Artwork: Haoran Bie, *Bowl* (detail) from *Assembly: Ceramics & Glass*, 2023

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Dear Collectors, Gallerists, Artists, and Art Enthusiasts,

As Director of Homiens, I am delighted to welcome you to the latest edition of our Meet the Artists booklet. Each season, we open our doors to a diverse array of talented artists through our competitive Meet the Artists initiative, selecting those whose work exemplifies creativity, originality, and excellence. We couldn't be more excited to present to you these thirty remarkable artists who have earned their place in this season's program.

As the program is competitive and merit-based, successful application represents a professional milestone. Each artist featured here has demonstrated to us the highest level of professionalism in our engagement with them, reflecting their dedication to their craft and their intention to engage productively in the professional art ecology. We are also proud to highlight where these artists have distinguished themselves as highly commended artists, finalists, or winners in our seasonal prize: A prize which recognizes their exceptional contributions to the contemporary art landscape.

Within these pages, every artist is celebrated with a dedicated double-page spread, showcasing their selected artwork, biography, contact details, and a comment from Homiens about their work and artistic practice. This curated booklet is designed to immerse you in their creative worlds, offering a glimpse into the vision and passion that inform their art.

We invite collectors and gallerists to reach out directly to the artists contained herein via the contact information provided on each artist's page. These artists warmly welcome your interest and are eager to engage in meaningful conversations about their work. A simple hello could be the start of a rewarding connection.

We are immensely proud to share this vibrant community of artists with you, and we hope this booklet inspires you as much as it does us.

With warm regards,

Kita Das
Director, Homiens

Candace Alexandres

Lives and works in the Netherlands

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Artist Biography

Candace Alexandres, a.k.a Calex (a combination of her first and last name), is an American fine artist and designer. After over a decade-long career in advertising, Candace returned to her true passion in 2020, diving back into the world of art. She rekindled her creativity with watercolor illustrations and gradually explored different mediums until she found her most joyful art practice yet – creating expressive, color-packed abstract art with acrylic.

In 2022, Candace fulfilled her lifelong dream of living in Europe. Now based in Amsterdam, she creates original art in her canal-side studio. She considers painting a form of meditation, therapy, and time travel. It lets her clear her mind and relive cherished moments.

Her style is a union of textures and expressive mark-making, influenced by the power of color. Often, she lets the colors guide her, allowing the feelings or memories they evoke to shape the artwork. She uses tools like brushes, palette knives, chopsticks, sponges, and her hands to sculpt the paint and create dynamic marks.

Contact Candace

Email: candace@calex.studio

Website: <https://www.calex.studio/>

Instagram: [@calex.studio](https://www.instagram.com/calex.studio)

Artwork Description

This is a rediscovery of a family trip to Italy the summer after my 18th birthday. The sun baking the terracotta roofs in Florence, the color of the olives in the market, the taste of pasta with fresh lemon and Parmesan. I can still remember my late father holding my mother's hand as we walked over cobblestones to make our way to dinner, everyone laughing at a joke lost in time now. It was pure joy.

Homiens Curator's Comment

We're particularly captivated by Candace's accomplished abstract depiction of memories, landscapes, and flavors. A balmy, sunlit palette of terracotta oranges, olive greens, and lemon yellows here successfully evokes Florence's sensory richness with textured brushstrokes.



Artwork: Candace Alexandres, *That Summer in Florence*, 2024, Acrylic on paper.

Cindy Avroch

Lives and works in the United States

Artist Biography

Cindy Avroch is a multi-talented artist whose first love was always drawing, painting, and sculpting, despite being a trained dancer. While other little girls played with Barbie dolls, Cindy carried a sketchbook, pencils, and an eraser. She earned a degree in textile design from the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City and studied at Winchester School of Art in England.

Cindy worked as a studio artist and art director in New York City's fashion industry, with her designs appearing in major department stores nationwide. She collaborated with The Walt Disney Co., Warner Bros., United Media, and Nickelodeon, creating licensed print collections that tripled sales.

Leaving the fashion industry to care for her special needs son, Cindy became a stay-at-home mom and launched a new venture from home. She designed fine art lighting and decoupage tabletop accessories, leading to commissions from the Chicago and Longwood Botanical Gardens, The Newseum in Washington, DC, and 13 aquariums across the U.S., with her artwork selling in high-end gift and home décor stores.

Returning to her true passion for fine art, Cindy's work celebrates both the real and the imaginative. Her attention to detail, precision, and color balance with the fluidity of a dancer. Believing that great abstract painters must master traditional techniques first, Cindy constantly innovates her work with new methods and mediums.

Cindy lives in Dallas, Texas, with her husband, Michael, her younger son, and her studio-mate puppies, Lenny and Lucy. You can find them at her studio in the Design District from Monday to Friday.

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Contact Cindy

Email: cindy@cindyavrochfineart.com

Website: <https://www.cindyavrochfineart.com/>

Instagram: [@cindyavrochfineart](https://www.instagram.com/cindyavrochfineart)

Artwork Description

In a world of ever-evolving dynamics, the essence of strength and endurance in women's lives has taken on new and profound significance. My collection of abstract female figurative sculptures seeks to encapsulate the power, resilience, and unwavering endurance that women embody in contemporary society. These sculptures are visual narratives that reflect the complexities and struggles faced by women today. They stand as testaments to the fortitude women draw upon in family, career, personal challenges, or the pursuit of equality and justice. The abstract nature of these sculptures underscores the multifaceted and ever-changing roles women play. These figures are not bound by traditional norms or societal expectations but instead embody the fluidity and adaptability that women consistently demonstrate. Each curve, form, and texture tells a story of growth, transformation, and resilience.

Read more about Cindy's collection on our website: <https://homiens.com/cindy-avroch/>

Homiens Curator's Comment

The impressive abstract female form in Cindy's Future Strength stands out to us. This bronze sculpture with a verdigris patina uses intricate, armor-like surfaces to convey strength and fluidity.



Artwork: Cindy Avroch, *Future Strength*, 2024, Aqua resin, metallic powders, and patina.

Haoran Bie

Lives and works in the United Kingdom
Winner of The Homiens Art Prize

Artist Biography

As an artist with a background in industrial design and jewellery design, Haoran Bie is fascinated by the exploration of the ways in which different materials can be assembled. During his postgraduate studies, he focused on ceramics and glass. He hopes to show the different possibilities of materials through the innovative use of traditional craftsmanship. In the series of works *ASSEMBLY*, Bie draws on the shape and ideology of the traditional Chinese handicrafts of the Multi-layer Ivory Ball, and tries to reinterpret this traditional cultural heritage in the current social and humanistic environment through the glass blowing process, so as to make it more suitable for the needs of the public at present. Bie's works are ostensibly to explore the innovative ways of assembling ceramics and glass, but in fact, to stimulate people's understanding of traditional handicrafts in the current social development environment. Many of the crafts that were created in the context of ancient feudal societies are fading from view; as treasures of human civilisation, Bie hopes that they can be preserved in a way that is more relevant to the needs of contemporary society.

Contact Haoran

Email: haoranbie1@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.4amstudio.store/>

Instagram: @haoranbie

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Artwork Description

Assembly, assembly, assembly. In my eyes, assembly is gorgeous. It's not just the function, it's the piston that brings a product to life. Imagine a diamond ring. Elegant legs grow out of the ring, like the delicate forelimbs of a spider, gently clamping down on a sparkling gemstone. Everything is as if it were made in heaven. And like a fruit ripening between the branches, firmly clamped by the seemingly slender branches, swaying gracefully in the wind. Ceramics, ceramics, ceramics. The fruit of human civilisation. A puddle of clay in the hands of our ancestors before you and me, it can come to life. Time seems to stand still in it. It was born from mud and water, and rose in flames. Glass, glass, glass. Picked up from the sand, it is as clear as water and as fragile as ice. It seems absent but real, strong but fragile. Throwing, glazing, firing. Ceramics are born. With the roar of the torch, in my blowing, glass stretching the sinews, rounded belly; be with ceramics in the flames. From then on, never separate.

Homiens Curator's Comment

We admire the masterful balance achieved in Haoran's ceramic and glass pieces. A smooth ceramic bowl paired with a fragile, spider-like glass structure creates a delicate, resilient union.



Artwork: Haoran Bie, *Bowl from Assembly: Ceramics & Glass*, 2023. Porcelain and borosilicate glass.

Susan Brown

Lives and works in the United States

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Artist Biography

California artist Susan Brown grew up with European parents who introduced her to art at an early age. Brown painted and drew from childhood, winning a state-wide award when she was twelve. After retiring in 2016 from technology/bio-tech, she devoted herself to her painting career. Highlights include invitation to the Florence Biennial 2025, Artist Residency, Vallauris, France, 2022, American Women Artist Award, 2023, Barnes Foundation Scholarship, 2024, and Important World Artists VI (one of 10 artists sponsored to be in the 2024 volume VI). Her painting, *Davenport Evening*, has been accepted into the San Diego Museum of Art Winter 2024 Exhibition.

Brown's background as a watercolor artist provided her experience in the use of light, shadow and negative space, and in how to maintain freshness in her painting. She continued her artistic passion and education by studying acrylic, oil, figure drawing, and portraiture, including at the Pacific Art League, College of San Mateo, UC Santa Cruz, and through independent workshops. Her influences include Robert Diebenkorn, Georgia O'Keeffe, Matisse and John Singer Sargent. Her work has been shown in international and US galleries and juried exhibitions, is in private collections, and sold through the Homeless Garden Project Store, Santa Cruz, where she donates 50% of all sales. Susan teaches throughout California, and at Ghost Ranch, New Mexico.

Contact Susan

Email: susanbrownart@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.susanbrownfineart.com/>

Instagram: @susanbrownfineart

Artwork Description

Davenport, California is a small town with a deep California history, including the Road House, a former stage coach stop, now a Bistro and Hotel. This painting shows the early evening, as shadows lengthen as one drives on Highway #1 N, going through the small town of Davenport. It is part of a series of paintings that focus on local areas throughout Santa Cruz County, concentrating on lesser known places that are rarely painted; not typical "coastal scenes."

Davenport Evening provokes a mood of energy and perhaps a wish to travel and have new experiences. It also poses questions for the viewer; asking where the road may lead, and evoking a sense of recognition or déjà vu, whether or not one has actually been there.

Homien's Curator's Comment

We appreciate Susan's striking evocation of early evening travel in Davenport Evening. Lengthening shadows on the #1 N and the vivid Road House sign are suggestive of a restless curiosity.



Artwork: Susan Brown, *Davenport Evening*, 2019, Acrylic paint on canvas.

Natasha Burenina

From Ukraine, and lives and works in Spain.

Artist Biography

Natasha Burenina is a versatile artist working across various styles and mediums. She is also known for her work as a generative artist, utilizing technology to create innovative pieces. In 2023, Natasha held her first solo exhibition during Paris Fashion Week. This event allowed her to present her diverse body of work to a broad audience, including representatives from the fashion world and art enthusiasts.

Natasha's art resonates with people from diverse cultures. She employs various techniques and aims to imbue her works with emotional depth. Each piece reflects her artistic vision, inviting viewers to immerse themselves in unique interpretations of beauty, love, and mystical realms.

As she continues to evolve as an artist, Natasha explores new themes and techniques in her work. She combines traditional artistic methods with cutting-edge technology in her generative art, pushing the boundaries of creative expression.

Natasha hopes that her creations will continue to resonate with viewers, inspiring them and evoking emotions. Her commitment to artistic exploration and innovation drives her to create pieces that speak to the human experience, capturing moments of beauty and introspection.

Contact Natasha

Email: natasha@burenina.art

Website: <https://burenina.art>

Instagram: @elfometa

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Artwork Description

We grew up in a world saturated with bright plastic trinkets, pervasive advertising, and omnipresent brands. These elements have woven themselves into the fabric of our daily lives. In my latest series, I explore pop culture as it is. Pop art has always been a source of joy for many—found in vivid packaging and bold slogans. Yet, there's also a certain numbness, a sensory overload from the incessant consumption of these images.

The *In A Happier Dimension* series initiates a conversation with the psychedelic aspects of mass culture. It portrays relaxed, "chilled-out" individuals who are both the products and the casualties of this cultural phenomenon.

Homiens Curator's Comment

Natasha's In A Happier Dimension catches our attention with brilliant, hypnotic charm. This digital drawing in blue and pink is infectiously ebullient and punches loudly against a warm, contrasting background.



Artwork: Natasha Burenina, *Untitled* from *In A Happier Dimension* series, 2024, Digital art.

Joshua Cherian

Lives and works in the United States

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Artist Biography

Joshua Cherian is a student artist located in the United States, primarily focusing on illustration. He utilizes ink and graphite along with techniques such as crosshatching and stippling to achieve high levels of shading and detail. Once graduated, he hopes to find himself working in the architecture industry, along with other avenues such as interior design, tattooing, and graphic design.

Contact Joshua

Email: joshua.j.cherrian@gmail.com

Instagram: [@joshh_cantdraw](https://www.instagram.com/joshh_cantdraw)

Tiktok: [@joshh_cantdraw](https://www.tiktok.com/@joshh_cantdraw)

Artwork Description

Inspired by many of the mixed emotions that comes with stress, the piece *Wings Of Freedom* is meant to detail the love hate relationship many have with stress. Although stress can be one of the biggest promoters of productivity, it often leads to mental deterioration. Stress is needed for some, yet too much for others.

Homiens Curator's Comment

We find Joshua's surreal composition both delicate and compelling. Wings of Freedom navigates chaotic, liberating motion and fraught emotional tension while offering the possibility of a serene moment in flux.



Artwork: Joshua Cherian, *Wings of Freedom*, 2024, Graphite on watercolor paper.

Sophia Eroshkina

Lives and works in the United Kingdom

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Artist Biography

I am a young British artist and I work with oil, acrylic, and watercolours to show the beauty of the world and of each and every moment. You don't need to climb a mountain to feel on top of the world. My work raises awareness of pressing social issues, especially deforestation, ocean pollution and marine debris. I believe that if we want to change the world we should start with self-discovery and changing ourselves and my practice is my way of doing so. Art prizes and sales of my work are the source of income that allow me to be on this journey.

Contact Sophia

Email: perochkine@me.com

Homiens Curator's Comment

Sophia's splendid watercolor Fishes Are Wishes impresses us with its fluid composition. Blues and greens together with an abstract, ruminative background evoke the beauty of marine life.



Artwork: Sophia Eroshkina, *Fishes Are Wishes*, 2024, Watercolor on paper, 13.8" x 9.8" (350 mm x 250 mm).

Pablo Firpo

Lives and works in Argentina

Artist Biography

Pablo Firpo (b. 1986) has been an artist since 2018. He studied Graphic Design at the University of Palermo, Buenos Aires, Argentina. In 2021, he carried out a residency at Tuo Tuo Arts, Finland, and to date, has taken a Painting and Drawing Workshop with Damian Crubellati. In 2022, Pablo was part of ArteBa with the PM Gallery, and participated in the *Penta Mantra* collective exhibition with Tomas Fracchia and Ginevra Landini at the PM Gallery. In 2023, Pablo had a solo exhibition titled *Erkopororho* at the gallery Un Lugar en el Mundo. Pablo is also a musician, releasing 18 single tracks in 2020, and an album in 2023 titled *The Sky Fell and We Live in the Clouds*.

Contact Pablo

Email: pablofirpoart@icloud.com

Website: <https://pablofirpo.cargo.site>

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Artwork Description

I don't have a specific plan when I paint. Sometimes I imagine things, other times I just feel the need to paint. I paint with a desire to create, to put my body in rhythm. It makes me feel good; otherwise, I spend the whole day in my head. In the end, it's a way of finding something. I feel that understanding its meaning comes through sharing with others and receiving feedback in return.

Homiens Curator's Comment

The exceptional organic flow in Pablo's abstract painting in deep blue resonates with us. Bird-like forms and serpentine shapes evoke a subconscious search in Tweeklo's seamless composition.



Artwork: Pablo Firpo, *Tweqlo*, 2023, Tempera on a wooden board prepared with plaster and collagen, 17.3" x 24" (440 mm x 610 mm).

Patricia Fortlage

Lives and works in the United States

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Artist Biography

Patricia Fortlage is an award-winning documentary and fine art photographer. From her core belief that if you invest in women and girls, entire communities will be raised, Patricia has focused much of her career doing just that. From her powerful piece covering the female-led Othakarhaka Foundation in Southern Malawi to the stereotype breaking, female empowering *Wonder, girl!* Project, to a project on the often life-long after-effects of sexual assault on women, Patricia has promoted female empowerment one project at a time.

And now Patricia has begun a love letter to the chronic illness community, an ode to the women who are gaslighted every day. This current series, *Lemonade*, highlights the realism of living as a woman with chronic disease/disability. This is her story. Women with any kind of ongoing health struggle face incomprehensible discrimination, gaslighting, and dismissal. Patricia is working to expose that behavior, to lift the veil, and encourage change through fine art and conceptual photography. She attempts to make lemonade out of lemons each and every day and she aims to shine a special focus on that duality.

Contact Patricia

Email: patti@patriciafortlage.com

Website: <https://www.patriciafortlage.com/>

Instagram: @patricia.fortlage

Artwork Description

My name is Patricia Fortlage and I am a seasoned documentary and fine art photographer, and subtle activist. My current series, *Lemonade*, highlights the realism of living as a woman with chronic disease/disability in this country today. This is my story. Women with any kind of ongoing health struggle face incomprehensible discrimination, gaslighting, and dismissal. I am working to expose that behavior, to lift the veil, and to encourage change through fine art and conceptual photography.

I would like to show that there is poignant beauty here, and power, and fight. That I have much yet to offer. Yes, there are challenges and there are truly gruesome moments... and some of that is shared as well... but I mostly aim to shine a spotlight on the resilience and fighting spirit and BEAUTY that still lives within me. There is even a bit of humor. I attempt to make lemonade out of lemons each and every day and I want to shine a special focus on that duality. Rarely do we see the story of chronic disease and disability told in this way, and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

Various installments from the series have been highlighted in group shows throughout the world, with one in particular (*The Breath*) winning several awards. My goal at this time is to garner grant/sponsor monies to be able to continue this work through research and extended narrative. In keeping with what drives me as an artist, my hope with this project is to educate and inspire.

Homiens Curator's Comment

In Patricia's striking photograph On The Menu, vibrant flowers and fruit contrast with medical supplies on a tray. This intimate still life conveys resilience and a feminine allure in the face of chronic illness with stunning clarity.



Artwork: Patricia Fortlage, *On The Menu from Lemonade, My Chronic Illness Story*, 2023, Archival pigment fine art photographic print.

Muyan Gao

Lives and works in China

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Artist Biography

Muyan Gao studied Fine Arts at Chelsea College of Art and Design (2014) and Sculpture and Environmental Art at Glasgow School of Art (2013). They are represented by the Illustration and Fine Art Division of GOU Studio in Beijing, China. Muyan's work has been featured in *Vogue Beauty*, *One Hundred Young Artists of 2015*, and was recently exhibited (2023) in a solo show titled *Paper Islands* at Zuoyou Gallery in Shanghai.

Contact Muyan

Email: muyanmuyan@yeah.net

Website: <https://muyanmuyan.com/>

Artwork Description

These sculptures embody upcycling, innocence, instinct, and playfulness, retaining original handmade traces and twisting into interesting overall shapes that project primitivist forms. By experimenting with various humble materials combined with pulp, these effects are explored. This is a slow but playful process, gradually building a personal relationship with each piece and engaging in a dialogue with it. Starting with a typical shape, it gradually twists into characters full of uncertainty, losing rules and definitions, and like magic, evokes numerous possibilities, such as a bird or an angry stone.

The personal time spent with each piece is very unique. Each piece exhibits its own distinct personality through its animated natural forms, feminine shapes, and vibrant colors. The dialogue between self and nature, the mutual folding of objects and structures, creates a symmetrical or asymmetrical balance. Exploring the feeling of "container form" from shape, color, and material blurs the boundaries between sculpture and container, embodying wrapping, enveloping, and containing. I emphasize desire and the subtle imprint of individual existence, dazzling color and shape changes, breaking the stereotypes of traditional sculpture/ware, and stimulating the poetic imagination of the audience and personal experiences harvested in the subconscious.

Homien's Curator's Comment

Muyan's magnificent red, bird-like sculpture with pulp-based tendrils leaves a lasting impression on us. The whimsical structure of each piece in this series evokes poetic charm in an ancient style.



Artwork: Muyan Gao, *Untitled* from *Fake Vessels* series, 2020-2023, Paper pulp.

Hannah Jaumot

Lives and works in the United States
Highly Commended in The Homiens Art Prize

Artist Biography

Inspired by past trends and future explorations, I explore my ideas through illustration, embroidery, and textile manipulation. An anti-minimalist, my work is full of detail, color, and texture, bringing the mental stimulation that maximalism creates to the forefront. Exploring the human imagination and inspired by far away galaxies, my work contains the weird and unusual influenced from cult science fiction and the microscopic.

Contact Hannah

Email: hjaumot@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.hannahjaumot.com/>

Instagram: [@hannahjaumot](https://www.instagram.com/hannahjaumot)

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Artwork Description

Alchemy, one of the oldest forms of spirituality, believes gold and precious metals are alive and living within the Earth. Any normal metal had the potential to become gold with the touch of the human hand. Inspired by landscapes at a bird's eye view and focusing on the magic in metal, my piece *Gilded Meadows* turns the ordinary into something shimmering and full of life. When I started learning gold work embroidery in college, I knew this technique was special and wanted to create a piece highlighting the different techniques and effects one can get with purl wire, beads, and thread. I combined this with my experiments with acrylic paint skins, created when dried paint is pulled off a surface creating a skin like material. With gold work embroidery creating the ebbs and flows of valleys and paint skins becoming crystals, this series encourages the viewer to take a moment to view each small detail and meditate on the Earth and the magical materials it creates.

Homiens Curator's Comment

We value the inventive, and exquisite alchemical quality Hannah achieves in Gilded Meadows. Flowing patterns of purl wire and beads create crystalline landscapes, rich with acrylic rivulets.



Artwork: Hannah Jaumot, *Gilded Meadows*, 2023, Embroidery and acrylic paint skins on wood panel.

Zhemiao Kang

Lives and works in the United States
Highly Commended in The Homiens Art Prize

Artist Biography

Cas Kang, known professionally as Zhemiao Kang, is an interdisciplinary textile artist and fashion designer who works with vibrant colors and materials. Born and raised in Hebei, China, Cas discovered her passion for art at a young age and pursued formal training at the Academy of Arts in Tsinghua University, China.

After completing her Bachelor's degree in fashion design, Cas was honored with a national scholarship of Art Talent Training Special Project sponsored by the China Scholarship Council. She then embarked on a journey to Parsons School of Design, where she pursued a Master's degree in textile design.

Cas's artistic endeavors are guided by her exploration of emotions, spaces, intuitive experiences, and femininity. Through vivid colors and dynamic material compositions, she endeavors to evoke a sense of spiritual tranquility in her audience. Her piece *Hard Candy* earned her the Best Color Matching Award in the "Real Leather Stay Different" Design Competition, organized by the Leather and Hide Council of America (LHCA).

In the realm of textile embellishment, Cas showcases remarkable innovation and proficiency in various techniques, including silkscreen printing, digital printing, flocking, devore, embroidery, quilting, knitting, etc. She also holds a patent-pending process improvement for multicolor velvet flocking print.

Beyond her studio work, Cas also works as a part-time illustrator. Her collaborative project, *One-Step Closer*, created in partnership with Huawei, was selected for display at the 3rd Beijing Youth Art Biennale.

Contact Zhemiao

Email: kangz744@newschool.edu

Website: <https://www.caskangtextiles.com/>

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Artwork Description

The Room Doesn't Exist is a project that explores liminal space and the fusion of dreamcore aesthetics with childhood memories. Through a blend of knitting and quilting, it stitches together fragments of the past, forming a vague intention—a place lost in time and space, a nonexistent room. Each layer comprises digitally printed organza and intricate lace stitches, creating a delicate, multi-dimensional space.

Homiens Curator's Comment

The mesmerizing dreamlike space in Zhemiao's The Room Doesn't Exist draws us in. This ethereal installation with digitally printed organza and lace stitches forms a beguiling kaleidoscope of domestic and cloud-like forms.



Artwork: Zhemiao Kang, *The Room Doesn't Exist*, 2024, Knitting, quilting, free motion embroidery, projection, yarn, lace, thread, and digitally printed organza. View the video on YouTube: https://youtu.be/cZhdhx8CSHw?si=_JEdXwY2b_Ko78qE

Zhongqi Li

Lives and works in the United States

Artist Biography

Hi, I'm Zhongqi Li, a character concept artist and illustrator specializing in video games. I've been fortunate to work on some incredible titles, including *Overwatch 2*, *League of Legends: Wild Rift*, *Apex Legends*, *Honor of Kings*, and many more. I enjoy the creative process and the thrill of transforming ideas into vivid characters and bringing them to life.

Contact Zhongqi

Email: lzhongqi1999@gmail.com

Website: <https://mrrabbit.artstation.com/>

Instagram: [@mrrabbit_art.psd](https://www.instagram.com/mrrabbit_art.psd)

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Artwork Description

In this artwork, a girl leans against a wall, her gaze lifted upwards, tears in her eyes. The dim light casts a soft glow, emphasizing the contrast between light and shadow, capturing the depth of her emotion, and evoking a sense of melancholy.

Homiens Curator's Comment

We are moved by the evocative subtlety in Zhongqi's digital painting, crafted with delicate brushwork and nuanced shading. The girl's upward gaze, illuminated by a soft, ethereal glow against a stark wall, conveys a profound yearning amidst her quiet sorrow.



Artwork: Zhongqi Li, *Blue Tear*, 2024, Digital painting.

Jeanne May

Lives and works in the United States

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Artist Biography

Jeanne May, a retired teacher, is a self taught artist primarily painting in oils and acrylics. Her work explores human emotions and issues of climate change and women's rights. Since starting her artistic journey in July 2023 Jeanne has participated in gallery shows at the Carolina Artist Gallery in Morehead City, NC on a regular basis. Her work has also been juried into regional shows such as Artfields 2024 in South Carolina, national shows including MVA Art Gallery in Bethlehem PA and the international art fair UnFair Milano 2024 in Milan Italy through the Van Gogh Art Gallery in Madrid, Spain. Jeanne has received three merit awards for her work. She hopes to continue to grow in her art practice and enjoy the wonderful community of artists that she has found in coastal NC.

Contact Jeanne

Email: jmay463@gmail.com
Website: <https://jeannemay.com/>
Instagram: @jeanne.w.may

Artwork Description

I live in coastal Carolina and people here love coastal art, especially sea turtles and mermaids. I wanted to use these images to express the declining state of our oceans and point to the hypocrisy of people claiming to love sea turtles but unwilling to stop using plastic grocery bags. It will take much more than eliminating plastic grocery bags to save our oceans but it is an extremely easy act that we can all do today.

Homiens Curator's Comment

We are taken with the sensitivity of Jeanne's mermaid, who gently cradles a sea turtle. Siren for the Sea evokes environmental urgency, with skeletal textures and tear-like rills engendering pathos.



Artwork: Jeanne May, *Siren for the Sea*, 2024, Oil and acrylic on canvas.

Zachary Melisi

Lives and works in the United States

Artist Biography

Zachary Melisi graduated from Colby-Sawyer College in 2017, with a B.S. in Environmental Science.

He has since pursued a career in education and the arts, journeying through the wildest New England suburbs in search of the fantastical. He found it too, and shares his findings in a variety of media that blend influences from nature and landscape art with folklore and fairy tales. Zachary is currently living in the Boston area and spends his time painting and patiently teaching the local scrubland to read. Every backwoods and abandoned field has a story, if you're paying attention.

Contact Zachary

Email: zachmelisi@gmail.com

Website: <https://zacharymelisi.com/>

Instagram: @druidofsuburbs

HOMIENS

Artwork Description

The scene is rendered in a limited palette of greens, blues, and yellows, and depicts several figures from a low angle perspective underwater. The foreground features a school of fish, seen mostly from below as though they are moving in a school over the viewer. An additional figure swims with them, exhibiting humanoid qualities as well as those of a fish or amphibian, as with depictions such as "The Creature from the Black Lagoon." Checkered netting and fishhooks trail from the central figure, and its gaze angles upward, where the furthest point depicts both shafts of light coming from the surface and the rippled form of a boat and, presumably, additional hidden figures at the surface.

Homiens Curator's Comment

Zachary succeeds in capturing our attention with the disorientating strength of this unconventional composition. The ambiguous figure at the centre of his work floats ominously: Trapped, and yet luminous.



Artwork: Zachary Melisi, *School Beneath the Lakefront*, 2021, Acrylic paint on canvas.

Nina Pancheva

Lives and works in Bulgaria
Highly Commended in The Homiens Art Prize

Artist Biography

Nina Pancheva works in painting and art installation. After completing her art education at the art academy in her home country Bulgaria, she received her MA in Fine Art at the University of Southampton in 2011. In 2015 she completed her Ph.D. at the same university with practice based research. Her works have been included in private and public collections in the United Kingdom, USA, Bulgaria, Austria, and Italy. Among the recognitions which her paintings have received are: first place at 6th Open Theme Competition, Teravarna Gallery; selected in final five works in Painting category, Visual Art Open, The Other Fair; shortlisted for London Art Biennale 2021, fifth place in the competition "All Landscapes", Contemporary Art Gallery Online; shortlisted for final exhibition of Lynn Painter-Strainers Prize; shortlisted for final exhibition of the competition ING Discerning Eye, as well as for Sunny Art Prize 2020; first place prize for painting in the competition of Foundation "Anastas Staykov", Bulgaria; and shortlisted as one of the artists to present Bulgaria in the Henkel and KulturKontakt competition in Vienna, Austria.

Contact Nina

Email: nina_pancheva@yahoo.com
Website: <https://www.ninapancheva.com/>
Instagram: [@ninapancheva.art](https://www.instagram.com/ninapancheva.art)

HOMIENS

Artwork Description

This painting is part of my series *Realties*. The works in this series have been constructed around the tension between the mimetic look of the figurative elements depicted and the (almost) abstract forms of the labels. The process of working on these pieces began two-fold. On the one hand, I aimed to address formal questions regarding space in the two-dimensional surface of the canvas. By adding the label, the surface separates into two levels of perception, one being the image of the bread, i.e. a 'realistic' approach, and the other - the abstract shape of the label.

The other direction of the creative process unfolded around the tension between the label and the images as subject matters, i.e. the tension itself has become the centre of the pieces. The tension between this figurative depiction of very familiar objects in our everyday life, and a list of ingredients which vaguely resembles bread. In this sense, tension arises between the words and the meanings they convey to us: When does bread stop being bread? When do we stop perceiving it as bread? And why do we still see it as bread if its substance deviates from that of bread? Do we have to redefine the notion of the word so we can still use it in practical terms? Or, in a sense, we create a new reality, which resembles the simulacra described by Jean Baudrillard.

I hope that these paintings, merging from between the material (canvas) and the non-material (meaning), between the abstract and the figurative, between words and images, can offer an intriguing insight into these subject matters.

Homiens Curator's Comment

We appreciate Nina's thought-provoking exploration of perception, prosecuted visually here with admirable clarity. Hyper-realism meets an affecting, stark minimalism in this playful still life.



Artwork: Nina Pancheva, *Bread* from the *Realities* series, 2023, Oil on canvas, 45.6" x 31.8" (1160 mm x 810 mm).

Cheryl Safren

Lives and works in the United States

Artist Biography

Cheryl Safren's science art has appeared in many publications including *National Geographic Science*, and *Chemical & Engineering News*. She was guest speaker at an American Chemical Society convention held in Puerto Rico, and was the keynote speaker at Junior Science Symposium held at Adelphi University.

Ten of her public art commissions are permanently installed across America including 22 panels at Miami University in Ohio and eight panels installed in the Sorenson Biotechnology Center on the University of Utah's campus in Salt Lake City.

Cheryl was born in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, grew up in the Bronx, and attended the HS of Art and Design in Manhattan. Her BFA is from Pratt Institute and her Master of Science is from Hofstra. The artist has lived and worked on Long Island, New York for three decades. After years immersed in the sciences, Cheryl's art now explores imaginary worlds inspired by science.

Contact Cheryl

Email: tzayaret@gmail.com

Website: <http://safren.com>

Instagram: @tzayaret

HOMIENS

Artwork Description

NASA recently unveiled the first remarkable images from the James Webb Telescope, the world's largest and most powerful space telescope. What we now know is that there are about one hundred billion such galaxies in our observable universe in addition to our own, and that within galaxies like our Milky Way, there are about one hundred billion stars; and that the universe is continuing to expand. Now we have this newly confirmed knowledge of an expanding universe with infinite possibilities of forms alien to us.

As many as 88 individual organic forms make up the *Wildermont* sculpture which is part of the *Remote Ecosystems* series. The "ecosystem sculptures" are imagined terrestrial landmasses seen by the James Webb telescope but not yet explored. At this point there are six sculptures in the *Remote Ecosystems* series.

In addition to these sculptures, also part of *Remote Ecosystems* is a series of two-dimensional wall hung panels depicting the Creation, Gestation and Habitation on these alien landmasses.

When we realize that we are but a speck in the universe, and progressively transition from our tribal ways of thinking, then hopefully our shared commonality as a species will encourage us to treat Earth as our home.

Homiens Curator's Comment

Cheryl's Wildermont sculpture, with its captivating fantastical display, delights and intrigues us. Organic forms and textures like coral and mossy tendrils evoke a thriving, otherworldly ecosystem.



Artwork: Cheryl Safren, *Wilderment* from the *Remote Ecosystems* series, 2022, Mixed media (polymers, wood, gravel, yarn, paper, ink, glass, beads, and stones), 60" x 36" x 14" (1524 mm x 914 mm x 356 mm).

Natascha Sastra

Lives and works in the Netherlands
Highly Commended in The Homiens Art Prize

Artist Biography

My name is Natascha Sastra, and I'm a Dutch artist passionate about expressing myself creatively. My journey in the art world began with a strong educational foundation, where I explored different avenues of creativity. After completing my secondary education at Mavo Sint Jacobus, I pursued further studies in fashion at MDGO Fashion in Sittard and Weert. This was followed by a deep dive into the world of fine arts at the Academy of Fine Arts in Maastricht and the Kunstacademie Maasmechelen, where I focused on painting and drawing.

I honed my skills independently and through various experiences, eventually establishing myself as a visual artist. My primary focus lies in portrait painting, where I find immense joy in capturing the essence of individuals through my work. Additionally, I've discovered a passion for tattoo artistry, allowing me to express my creativity in a different medium.

While my journey hasn't been without its challenges, I've had the opportunity to exhibit my work in esteemed venues such as the Longines Global Championstour (Casino Monaco) and the Dutch portrait prize. My art has also been featured in publications like ViewArtGallery.uk, and I've been honored with recognition such as the Luxembourg Art Prize, Beautiful Bizarre Art Prize, kunstenaar van het jaar and Figurativas Catalogue 2023, and The Meam Hall 2024.

As I continue to evolve as an artist, my aim is to humbly contribute to the art world, inspiring others with my passion for both portrait painting and tattoo artistry.

Contact Natascha

Email: natascha.sastra@noentity.com
Website: <https://nataschasastra.nl/>
Instagram: @natascha_sastra
Facebook: @natascha.sastravoncken1
Linkedin: @nataschasastra

HOMIENS

Artwork Description

The goal in a portrait is often to make it look monumental, not just by size, but by setting the model down monumentally. Like a timeless frozen second.

Homiens Curator's Comment

The exceptional stillness in Natascha's portrait captivates us. This figure, encased skillfully in a translucent, amber-like veil against a muted backdrop, evokes a perpetual gaze into the future.



Artwork: Natascha Sastra, *Rainy Day*, 2024, Oil on canvas, 11.8" x 15.7" (300 mm x 400 mm).

Priscila Schott

Lives and works in the United States

HOMIENS

Artist Biography

Priscila Schott is a visual artist and sculptor based in Key Biscayne, FL, born in São Paulo, Brazil. She graduated in Business Administration in São Paulo and co-founded a technology company, which was later sold, giving Schott the opportunity to focus on her artistic work. Living in various parts of the world, Schott developed a global view of the world; she lived in Brazil, Nassau, and then New York for many years.

Her practice is driven by the desire and fascination to explore and subvert simple geometric shapes into something new with her sculptures and paintings. There is an unsettling feeling of dislocation in her work, due to its constant changes over the years.

Contact Priscila

Email: pschottart@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.priscilaschottart.com/>

Instagram: [@psartstudio](https://www.instagram.com/psartstudio)

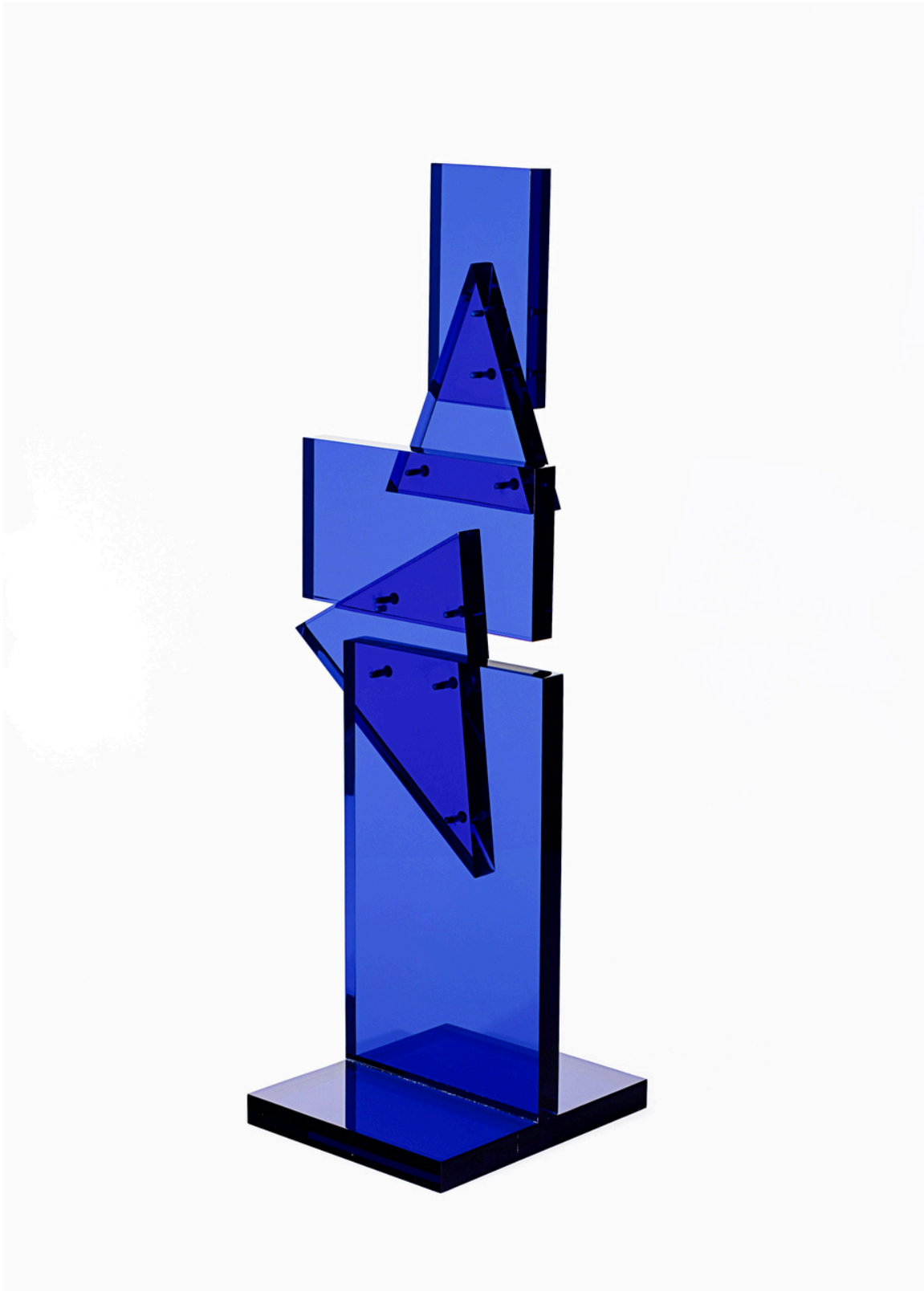
Artwork Description

Priscila Schott's studio practice is a vivid exploration of patterns and colors, ranging from primary to neutral hues, resulting in vibrant and evocative forms. Repetition serves as a fundamental element, symbolizing the rhythmic nature of life. Her works offer a sense of order within the chaos of existence. Schott's deliberate selection of material creates a tactile and visual interplay, illustrating the dual nature of human existence, where rigidity and softness harmoniously coexist.

Through her sculptures, Schott challenges the limitations of materials, embracing endless variations of patterns and colors. Her artwork delves into the interplay between structure and chaos, control and creativity, encouraging viewers to reflect on these contrasts. In her art, she unveils the intricate world of patterns and colors, offering a glimpse into the quest for order and control within the intricate tapestry of life.

Homiens Curator's Comment

Priscila excites us by cultivating a structured, yet precarious interplay in Untitled 18. Her blue acrylic sculpture balances rigidity and softness with rhythmic, geometric forms to create a dynamic dance which resembles the cascade of life.



Artwork: Priscila Schott, *Untitled 18*, 2023, Acrylic, 24" x 12" x 8" (610 mm x 305 mm x 203 mm).

Deborah Sfez

Lives and works in Cote-d'Ivoire and France

HOMIENS

Artist Biography

Deborah Sfez (b. 1964) is a multidisciplinary, internationally recognized artist working in Cote-d'Ivoire and France. Her tools are photography, moving image, and filmed performance accompanied by her written texts and her original composed music and sound. Her atypical path began with studies of English and French literature and language, before learning the trades of Fashion and Theatre Costumes in Paris. She uses all these different and various knowledges and skills in her artistic research and works. Deborah does not call herself a poet, photographer, or actor: She only uses all these ways of expression to fully communicate with her audience and create a total emotion in her viewer. Her work mainly deals with the pressing, and constant contemporary preoccupation with identity as a private or a collective issue, with political, national, or historical aspects and attachments.

Contact Deborah

Email: deborah.sfez46@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.deborah-s-artist.com/>

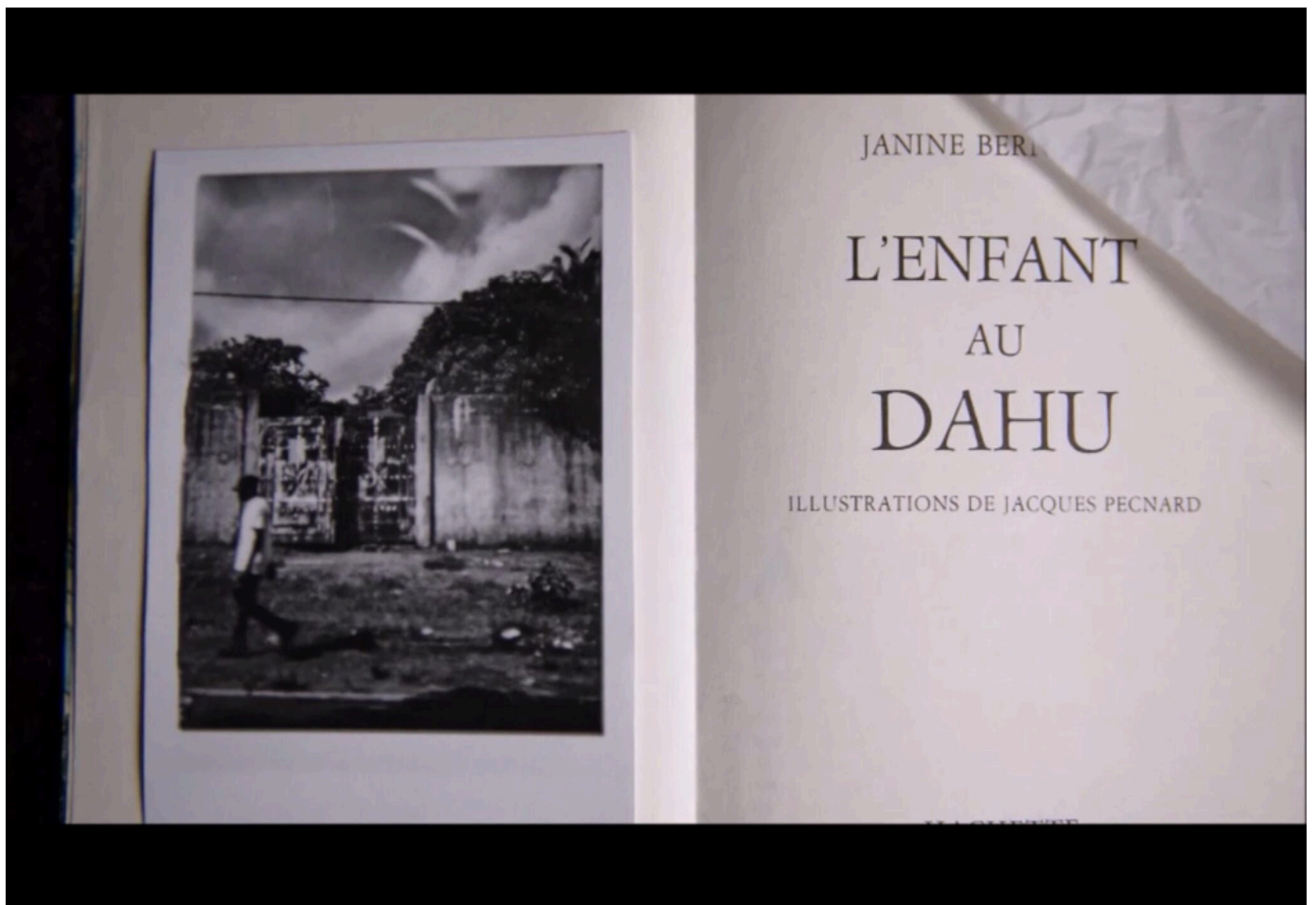
Artwork Description

An escape in three chapters into the space of the human mind asking questions about vision, memory and imagination.

Homiens Curator's Comment

Escape impresses us with its notable depth. Blending photography, found objects, moving images, and music, Deborah utilises exquisite showmanship to weave together a powerful and introspective narrative.

HOMIENS



Artwork: Deborah Sfez, *Escape*, 2019, Video work (00:09:20). View the video on Vimeo:
<https://vimeo.com/721015809>

Clara Silveira

Lives and works in Brazil

Artist Biography

Clara Silveira (1990) is a Brazilian contemporary artist and professional Tango dancer with a nomadic background. Within her artistic practice, she draws inspiration from intimate recollections, weaving them into evocative narratives across diverse media. Through collaborations with multiple artists and active engagement with the local community, she fosters a dialogue between personal and collective memories, in a never-ending conversation.

Currently residing in Brazil, Clara has directed and performed in numerous independent art projects and dance film productions, earning recognition at national and international festivals such as the ScreenDance Festival at the Dansmuseet (Sweden) (2023), New York – Buenos Aires Dance Fest (2023), and receiving an Honorable Mention at REDIV Cámara Corporizada (Iberoamerican Festival) in 2021 (Argentina). She also received the Aldir Blanc Prize (Brazil), securing subsidies for the projects *Chororô* and *EXIT*; a social initiative in collaboration with Centro Cultural Escrava Anastacia, aimed at supporting young people in socially vulnerable contexts.

In 2023, she participated in the Viafarini-in-Residence program (Milan, Italy), initiating the series of paintings *I Looked Away*, exploring the relationships between archive, memory, and trauma. Presently, Clara is engaged in the virtual residency program GlogauAIR (Berlin, Germany) and a project development program at Centro Cultural Veras (Florianópolis, Brazil), where she continues to develop her research through the installation *Dinner Table*.

Contact Clara

Email: clara.vieira.silveira@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.clarasilveira.com/>
Instagram: @claravieirasilveira

HOMIENS

Artwork Description

Dinner Table is an installation crafted for the online residency program GlogauAIR (Berlin, Germany), exploring the intersections of the domestic, anatomical, and medical realms. This conceptual piece features a dining table adorned with porcelain objects glazed with platinum, blurring the boundaries between everyday items, medical instruments, and anatomical parts. Through meticulous arrangements, all objects are subject to the fragility of porcelain, deactivating the power dynamics and functionality once present in their original materiality.

Dinner Table serves as a central component in Silveira's ongoing narrative within the series *I Looked Away*, initiated during her residency in the VIR program (Viafarini-in-residence, Milan, Italy) in 2023. The installation draws inspiration from the reflective qualities of thermal blankets employed in emergency scenarios, exploring this ambiguous iconography associated with tragedy, to construct a nuanced trauma archive, interweaving memory and violence within a fragmented narrative.

Collaborators

Photos by Bolivar Alencastro, special thanks to artist Julia Amaral responsible for the firings of the porcelain objects.

Homiens Curator's Comment

Clara captures the profound impact of trauma and memory in this installation in an indelible way. Platinum-glazed porcelain objects are activated on a lace tablecloth, forming a delicate, yet formidable composition.

Zachary Skinner

Lives and works in the United States
Highly Commended in The Homiens Art Prize

Artist Biography

Zac Skinner's art confronts climate change. He has held solo exhibitions with Wave Hill, Bronx NY, No. 3 Reading Room, Beacon NY, Garrison Art Center, Garrison NY, BAU Gallery, Beacon NY, the Ann Felton Multicultural Center, Onondaga Community College, Syracuse NY, and at Matteawan Gallery's Artist in Residence Exhibit, Beacon NY. Recent group exhibitions have included the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art, NY, Spring Break Art Show, NY, Vox Populi Gallery, PA, and CICA Museum, Korea.

He recently collaborated on a limited edition fine art press book of poetry and art, confronting ecological change and extinction, titled *Atlas Trap*, along with Poet Greg Delanty, and handprinted/published by Traffic Street Press, 2022.

Skinner received a MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and BFA from SUNY New Paltz College. He is an Instructor of Painting and Drawing at Ramapo College, NJ, and lives and works in Beacon, NY, USA.

Contact Zachary

Email: zacskinnerart@gmail.com
Website: <https://zacharyskinner.com/>
Instagram: @zacskinner

Artwork Description

Bush Hut Rainwater Farm, is a site-responsive sculpture, that conceptually builds upon my recent series of rainwater collection structures. I am constructing it using modified "bushcraft" techniques, basically using things I could carry with me as a wilderness survival kit: a hatchet, knife, powerless hand drill, a small saw, and string. The materials used are collected wood, bamboo, hemp, jute, straw, and walnut oil. These are all materials that are safe for the land. The structure could simply disintegrate, if abandoned, returning to the earth without trace.

HOMIENS

Certainly it isn't a new idea to use natural materials, but it is poignant to question artistic and cultural modes of production. The building of the structure was meaningful to myself, as a ritual of materialist purification. I realized that if art can play any role in sustainability, our consumption and production will challenge a complex and broken system of human-nature, without being consumed by that very system. We are biologically born of Nature, but are ushered into a dualistic existence where that very Nature is at odds with Society.

As a structure for re-centering the self, *Bush Hut Rainwater Farm* is a meditation space, with a viewing window, which could also function as a wildlife "blind". It catches and guides rainwater down to native plants, transplanted around the perimeter of the Hut. To me, this forms a symbiotic relationship between "the person" and the plants.

The structures we bring into the land can be an offering, and acknowledge interdependence. The Western dwelling is so often an intervention onto Nature. I wish to evoke a more sacred relationship to the land through my structures.

Homien's Curator's Comment

Bush Hut Rainwater Farm integrates with the landscape to nurture native plants while also providing a zero-footprint space for contemplation. Photographs of the structure are a testament to the strength of Zac's craftsmanship, and holistic vision.



Artwork: Zachary Skinner, *Bush Hut Rainwater Farm*, 2018, Bamboo, straw, hemp, jute, found wood, walnut oil, and various native plants.

Hannah Smith

Lives and works in the United States

HOMIENS

Artist Biography

I am a young artist from St. Michael, MN. In recent years, I've developed a strong connection with pottery. I use art to express my feelings and life experiences. In my free time, I occasionally write poetry. The piece I'm submitting is inspired by one of my poems titled, *flowers*.

Contact Hannah

Email: 025smithhannah@gmail.com

Website: <https://thestudiosmith.weebly.com/>

Artwork Description

This piece is inspired by one of my poems I've written. I used clay to hand-build and shape what I visualize while reading it.

Poem:

*you may have given me flowers,
but i deserve a whole garden.*

- i deserve more than the bare minimum

In my piece, you can see a floral and succulent garden, but it is zoomed in to a small section of flowers to really focus on the shapes and movement of each plant. I wanted to give life to my piece and include great texture and detail. I am learning new ways to give truth and meaning to each of my pieces and I feel like I achieved that in this.

Homiens Curator's Comment

Hannah's jewel-like ceramic piece, with beckoning succulent and floral forms, charms us. A central red rose in the textured garden captures a vital sense of self-worth, and abundance.



Artwork: Hannah Smith, *flowers*, 2023, Red clay and slip.

Daniela Spagnoli

Lives and works in Italy

HOMIENS

Artist Biography

Daniela works mixing media (sculpture, assemblage, photography, digital art, etc.), mostly using recycled materials and preferably in small sizes, which are both a lower environmental impact choice and a testament to her true love for seemingly useless and tiny things that usually people don't pay attention to.

She focuses on the human being and their behaviours, without the constraint of moral or philosophical judgment, but rather with a defiant gaze. Social disparities and environmental issues have also become major themes in her work.

She has exhibited in several events in Italy, including Palazzo Comunale in Todi (Perugia), at Galata The Sea Museum in Genova, and at the Technology Biennial at Politecnico di Torino.

Contact Daniela

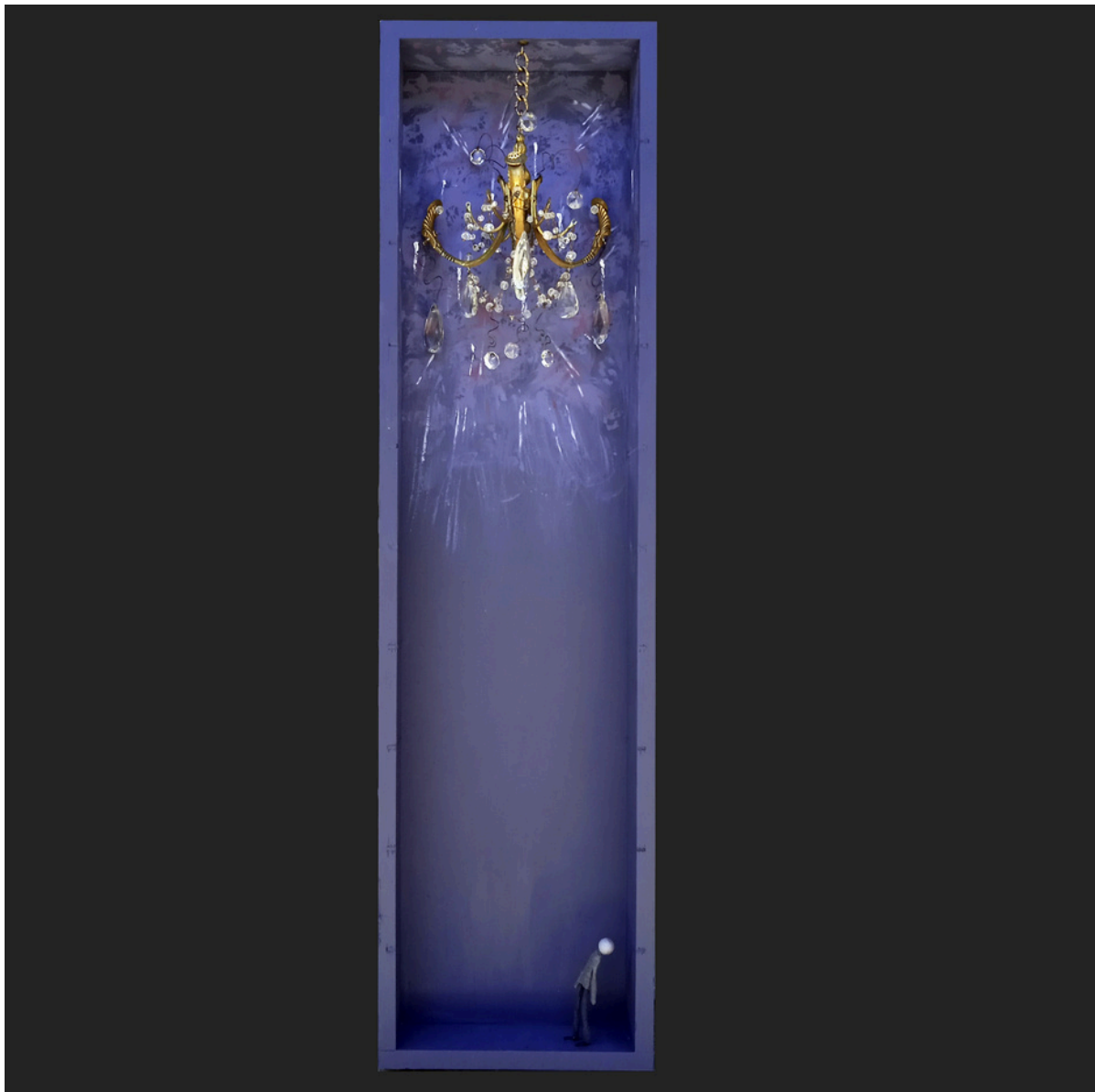
Email: dspagnoli.sxm@gmail.com
Instagram: [@_danielaspagnoli_](https://www.instagram.com/_danielaspagnoli_)

Artwork Description

This artwork concerns social inequality. Too many people are not able to accomplish their desires for this reason. Too many people actually don't even reach a decent life, so personal ambitions become impossible dreams, too distant to be achieved. Too high, like a sparkling, golden chandelier...

Homiens Curator's Comment

The poignancy of this surreal scene, contrasting an opulent chandelier with a solitary figure, captivates us. Daniela evokes injustice and iniquity here with stark clarity.



Artwork: Daniela Spagnoli, *"That sparkle is not for you"*, 2024, Old chandelier parts, wire, fabrics, and acrylic on wood.

Michael Stewart

Lives and works in Scotland

HOMIENS

Artist Biography

Welcome to my creative world, where process is key and innovation is always in motion. With a hands-on approach and an appetite for experimentation, I dive into a variety of mediums, constantly exploring new techniques and ideas. My primary focus lies in painting with mixed media, sculpting textures, and crafting 3D works. Additionally, I enjoy seamlessly transitioning between physical and digital realms, using my tangible pieces as inspiration for digital creations. Fascinated by the wonders of our natural environment and the mysteries of the universe, my work is fueled by a genuine curiosity and fascination with the world and beyond.

Contact Michael

Email: michaelstewart__@outlook.com

Website:

<https://michaelstewartf0e3.myportfolio.com/>

Artwork Description

In the silent expanse of the cosmos, a mysterious entity embarks on an introspective journey. Through infinite space and time, they seek to understand the essence of existence.

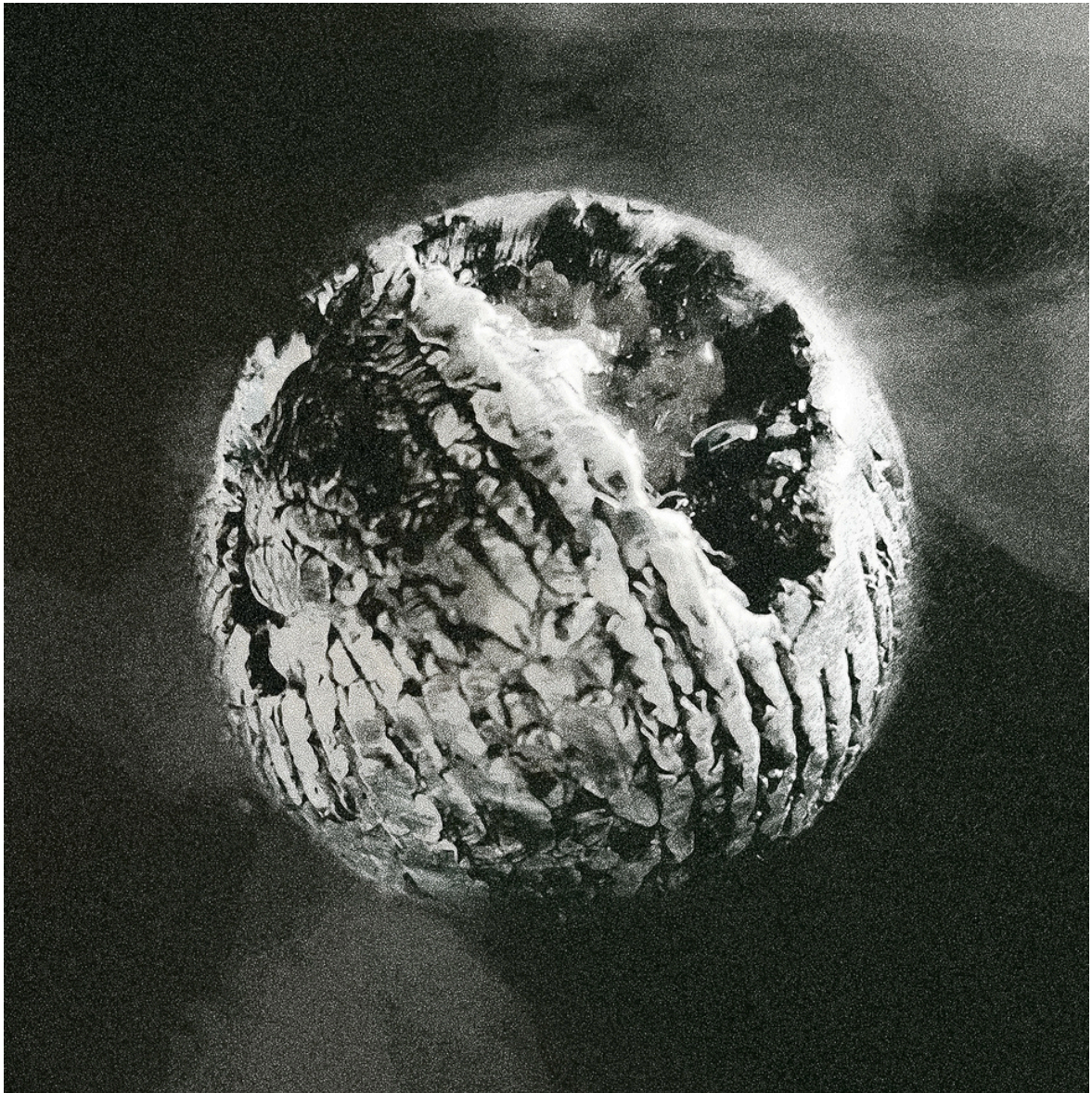
Drawn by celestial whispers, distant dying stars, and signals from long-dead civilizations, they transcend through galaxies and systems, delving into the depths of their own being, they reflect and sculpt their own cosmic tapestry.

In this infinite universe, they are driven mad by the possibilities, yet find a strange comfort throughout the chaos, discovering their insignificance is liberating and unburdening.

With each expenditure of energy, each mark they make, they explore further, embracing the wonders and creations of their mind, finding profound connection to imaginations reality and unreality.

Homiens Curator's Comment

We are intrigued by Michael's existential explorations, which may be at home alongside works like Max Ernst's The Entire City (1934). In Imagination, Reality evokes a sea of textured, lunar-like spheres with chaotic markings which oscillate between the familiar, and strange.



Artwork: Michael Stewart, *Untitled from In Imagination, Reality*, 2024, Installation work (3D sculptures, reliefs and video [polystyrene, paint, sand, UV resin, glitter]), View the video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nK-OUAiW5tk>

Laurence Tidy

Lives and works in the United Kingdom
Highly Commended in The Homiens Art Prize

Artist Biography

Previous to setting out to become an artist in 2021, I received a first in Modern and Medieval Languages (French and Spanish) from the University of Cambridge (2015) and worked for an environmental charity, in secondary-level education, and as a proofreader to several projects, including *Zero Carbon Britain: Rising to the Climate Emergency* (2019). I am studying for a BA in Fine Art Painting at the University of Brighton, UK.

Contact Laurence

Email: lwt17@riseup.net
Website: <https://laurencetidy.com/>
Instagram: @laurencetidy

HOMIENS

Artwork Description

My current work uses cut-up fragments of painted canvas, repurposed through supergluing their non-painted side onto wet oil paint. Leaving them to dry and then ripping them off creates a distressed print, which I then assemble with other fragments to create novel visual combinations.

The project took its working title *Construction Site* from a section of Walter Benjamin's writing *One-Way Street* (1928), in which he describes how children "bring together, in the artefact produced in play, materials of widely differing kinds in a new, intuitive relationship; '[...] children are particularly fond of haunting any site where things are being visibly worked upon' (Walter Benjamin, *One-Way Street*, 2021. London: Verso, 52). Benjamin's statement locates the activity of play amid the rubble; I see my assemblages voicing a difficult beauty amid the context of ecological collapse.

Like Benjamin's text – in which the author spliced found words of street-based ephemera as titles to his reflections – the titles of my works are the product of collaging words and phrases from artist press releases. These have been cut up and shuffled to create novel juxtapositions, some of which are nonsensical. In doing so, the titles bear elusive references (e.g. 'cancan', which originally described Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec's work) whilst also gaining new connotations through naming a new object.

Homiens Curator's Comment

Laurence's assemblage, with canvas fragments in muted purples and earthy browns, continues to impress us. Conveying beauty amid decay, The Cancan Relief certainly recalls Benjamin's fascinations, and feels like a contemporary reply to the collages of Kurt Schwitters' Merz.



Artwork: Laurence Tidy, *The Cancan Relief* from *Construction Site* series, 2024, Oil and superglue on canvas on hardback book cover, 11.9" x 7" (301 mm x 179 mm).

Krystyna Troitska

Lives and works in Canada

Artist Biography

My name is Krystyna Troitska. And I am someone who really wants to know this world, to understand its structure and meanings.

I've been looking for answers since I was 5 years old. And my path as an artist began then. When I was taken to art school as the youngest artist and an exception to the rules, where children from 12 years old studied. From the bottom up, I looked at the world of painting and fell endlessly in love.

My questions led me very far. First to over 40 countries as a guide and adventurer. Tightly combining my love of traveling and painting, I avidly visited every gallery I saw. Tapping into the art of the greats of this world, almost no gallery in Europe was left without my attention. I painted with my eyes, and returning home I dreamed on canvas.

Contact Krystyna

Email: kristinkapetrenko@gmail.com

HOMIENS

Artwork Description

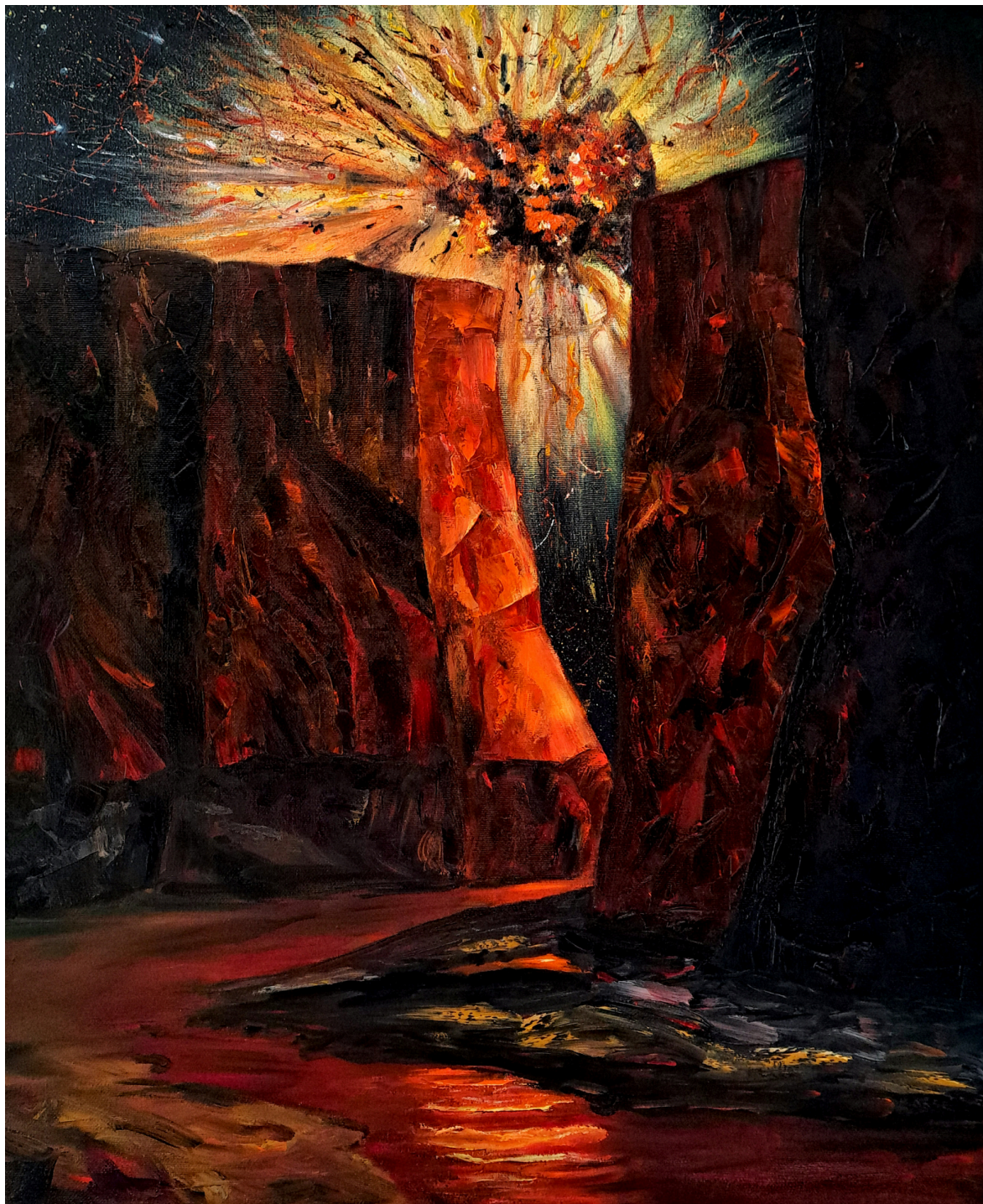
Combining my experiences as an artist and a dreamer, a traveler, and a refugee from war with tiny children to the ends of the earth, I was born with a series of rather screaming paintings. They reflect my soul in the last 2 years, my pain. My emotions and meanings. Life in migration, change of home, profession, and the loss of supports like family, the basics of being carefree, understandability, predictability, and the turning of my life into one solid question led to reflections. And observing what is happening in the world, sinfulness, death, pain – to my new chapter in painting.

I reflect on how fragile the world is. I reflect on the fact that mankind stands at the threshold of great change and it is impossible to go on like this.

The human is not the master of the world, though he may think he is. He's just a part of it. And I want to call with my works to think about what is happening and to be kinder, to be a part of a single ecosystem with the world. Otherwise, irreparable consequences for all mankind may come.

Homiens Curator's Comment

The apocalyptic intensity of Krystyna's painting of this explosive burst in a jagged, volcanic landscape with lustrous reds grips us. "A few moments before..." flourishes as a raw, fiery composition of visceral intensity.



Artwork: Krystyna Troitska, "A few moments before..." from *Apocalypse* series, 2024, Oil on canvas, 19.7" x 23.6" (500 mm x 600 mm).

Cherry Tung

Lives and works in the United States

Artist Biography

Cheuk Yan Cherry Tung is a Hong Kong-born interdisciplinary artist, currently based in Chicago. She holds a Master of Fine Arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2023 and a Bachelor of Art in Fine Arts from the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2020.

In her latest taxidermy painting series, Cherry endeavors to bridge Eastern and Western culture by blending the concept of European Vanitas paintings with Gongbi painting, a traditional ink painting skill that she learnt in Hong Kong. This body of work discusses the power dynamics between human beings and nature.

Cherry is an award-winning artist who received 2024 Emerging Art Development Grant from Hong Kong Art Development Council, 2023 Luminarts Visual Art Fellowship and 2023 James Nelson Raymond Fellowship. She has exhibited in Hong Kong and the United States in various venues such as the CSI Project Space, Art Clvb Gallery at NewLab Detroit, the Confluence Gallery, Art Pie Gallery, SAIC Galleries, Ruschman Gallery in Chicago, John David Mooney Foundation, and the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Contact Cherry

Email: cherrytungcy@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.cherrytungart.com/>

Instagram: @cherrytungart

HOMIENS

Artwork Description

In the Swedish Museum of Natural History in Stockholm, audiences look through a small window and observe a fox sleeping in a cave.

This is my favorite taxidermy, because it is at an ambiguous stage between sleep and death. In this painting, I try to explore the blurred boundary between life and death, the real and fake, and the natural and artificial.

Homien's Curator's Comment

Cherry's painting on silk achieves a serenely haunting depiction of a delicate natural balance. Her powerful fox at rest in a cave-like box evokes life with a surprisingly ready animacy, and also hints at death, stirring stark and surreal reflections.



Artwork: Cherry Tung, *Sleeping Taxidermy Fox in the Museum*, 2023, Ink, gouache, and watercolor on silk, 20" x 20" (508 mm x 508 mm).

VOLT IN HOLT

Lives and works in Poland

Artist Biography

VOLT IN HOLT is an artistic duo: Paulina Nadia Weremczuk — born in 1993 in Warsaw, Poland. She graduated from design studies with a specialization in product design. Dominik Kuryga — born in 1994 in Warsaw, Poland. Independent researcher and designer dealing with plasma physics, electrical engineering, and implementing projects in the industry. Since the end of 2021, they have been creating abstract, monochromatic paintings using a self-developed technique of painting with electricity. Their main medium is photosensitive paper. They live and work in Warsaw. Some of their achievements include: in 2025 — *Art Is*, an international exhibition at the CICA Museum, South Korea; in 2024 — “Behind Open Doors”, an individual exhibition at Grudziński Palace in Poddebice, Poland; *The Hereafter*, a series of group exhibitions across Poland by the Dark Side of Art collective, including the Museum of Romanticism in Opinogóra. Their work has been published in several magazines, including the *Kaleidoscope* cultural magazine from Poland in 2024, *Anima Mundi Academia* Art Magazine from Lithuania in 2023, and *Abstract State* magazine from the United States, which will be published soon. The duo was listed in the Al-Tiba9 Contemporary Art 2024 Artists’ directory and interviewed for the international LandEscape Contemporary Art Review in the same year.

Contact VOLT IN HOLT

Email: voltinholt@gmail.com

Website: <https://voltinholt.com/english/>

Instagram: [@voltinholt.art](https://www.instagram.com/voltinholt.art)

HOMIENS

Artwork Description

Our creative process is driven by our fascination with electrical discharges. We are captivated by their unpredictable nature and encouraged by the opportunity to capture their beauty, while also maintaining some control over them to create the desired composition. It all begins with an idea, followed by a concept or sketch of the composition. Then, we arrange it on photosensitive material in almost complete darkness. The final effect remains a surprise until the work is developed. Through our exploration of the unexpected, we have learned to embrace the unknown and turn unwanted situations into opportunities. We share this experience with our audience to illustrate that accepting the volatility and unpredictability of life is liberating for the mind. Each person can derive different meanings and connotations from our works, making them a source of introspection. *δ-5-6-513* is made in the artists’ technique we call “painting with electricity”. This technique not only captures light, but also effects associated with electrical discharge plasma and its interactions with the objects we place on the surface. In this way, we create compositions. Paper is our primary medium — desired effects can be intertwined because of multi-stage work, which contributes to the multidimensionality of our work.

Homiens Curator’s Comment

VOLT IN HOLT’s δ-5-6-513 is an intricately multidimensional composition of energy. Paulina and Dominik’s web-like plasma patterns radiating from a central orb on photosensitive paper capture an unpredictable beauty, and spark awe.



Artwork: VOLT IN HOLT, δ -5-6-513, 2024, Electrical discharge register on photosensitive paper.

Aaliyah Woodbridge

Lives and works in the United States

Artist Biography

Aaliyah Woodbridge is an Ohio based artist, who dips her fingers in every art media possible. From sculpture to photography, there's not a thing she won't do. She is currently attending The University of Akron for a major in ceramics and a minor in professional photography. Woodbridge's goal is to find a form of self expression through art that can speak and connect with others.

Contact Aaliyah

Email: aaliyahwoodbridge@gmail.com

Instagram: [@bridgeliyah](https://www.instagram.com/bridgeliyah)

HOMIENS

Artwork Description

The purpose of the sculpture is to capture graces and gentleness using something rough and jagged. The process of the project started with taking different wood carving tools to shave down large scrap wood, creating different shapes and sizes of large wooden splinters. From there the pieces were stapled down onto a homemade frame using a staple gun and wood glue. A wire was attached to the back for hanging. This piece was an assignment for my first sculpture class and a project I've come to truly love.

Homiens Curator's Comment

Aaliyah's sculpture is a delicately masterful arrangement of scrap wood. The feather-like form on a homemade frame evokes a surprising softness in a rough medium, while also directing our attention to the planes and physicality of each individual splinter in space.



Artwork: Aaliyah Woodbridge, *Lost Wing*, 2023, Shaven scrap wood.

HOMIENS

