

For immediate release

## **EMBODY**

### **What**

An exhibition of art by recent interns at Form + Content Gallery

### **When**

Thursday, July 26, 2018 through Saturday, September 1, 2018

Gallery hours: Thursday – Saturday, 12:00 – 6:00 pm and by appointment

Free and open to the public

### **Opening Reception**

Saturday, July 28, 2018 from 6:00 to 8:30pm

Free and open to the public

### **Where**

Form + Content Gallery

Whitney Square Building

210 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 104

Minneapolis, MN 55401

### **Info**

Form and Content Gallery, 612/436-1151

Joyce Lyon, 651/646-4706; lyonx001@umn.edu

<http://www.formandcontent.org>

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### **Description**

(Minneapolis, MN) – Form + Content Gallery presents *EMBODY*, a collaborative exhibition conceptualized by five recent interns of Form + Content Gallery. The interns will show artwork in a variety of media, ranging from painting to pen and ink to installation. From representational to abstracted depictions, suggestions towards the body and how it can be used to convey varying themes is an area of exploration for all of the artists. A body inhabits a space, acts on its surroundings, and is seen by a viewer, becoming an embodiment of experience.

### **Artists in the exhibition**

Quinn Barnard, Elizabeth Cleary, Kris Leathers, Vatina McLaurin, Kimberly Wetzel

### **Exhibition Administrator**

Joyce Lyon

### **Artist Information**

#### **Quinn Barnard: Artist Statement**

*Quinn's work is first and foremost intuitive, chance driven abstractions that are heavily about process. Quinn creates sets of circumstances or references that seem worthwhile but don't quite come to fruition; like an incomplete sentence, an "almost" painting. Through the way that the paintings are made, you are left thinking as much about the physical construction as about the construction of its meaning. The work does not make direct references to anything other than the materials they are made of, and investigate the way we attribute, or even force associations, references or meaning onto raw material.*

#### **Quinn Barnard: Artist Biography**

Quinn Barnard is a fine artist and recent graduate of The Minneapolis College of Art and Design. Quinn has participated in many shows both within and outside of MCAD, and helped curate as well as exhibited in "Democratic Archive" at Head to Toe Salon.

#### **Elizabeth Cleary: Artist Statement**

*Elizabeth creates both functional and sculptural terra cotta clay pieces that pay homage to traditional craft and domestic work. The work addresses her own questions about how to occupy traditionally female roles as a feminist and how to embrace these roles as an artist. She explores this by creating meditative and repetitive clay pieces and linking them together with naturally dyed yarn to create mixed media tapestries. She also creates traditional wheel-thrown pottery pieces with feminine shapes and designs.*

#### **Elizabeth Cleary: Artist Biography**

Elizabeth Cleary graduated from St. Catherine University in 2017 with a BA in Studio Art: Ceramics. She was the Amy Sears Memorial Scholarship winner her junior year, Thomas Moore All University Leadership Award winner her senior year, and Friends of the Gallery Award winner at her Senior Exhibition. Following graduation she attended the Women's Art Institute where she experimented with raku firing and thought more about ideas of home and space. In the fall of 2017, she moved to Denver, CO where she now works as a Clay Technician for the Children's Museum of Denver and Art Educator for the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art.

#### **Kris Leathers: Artist Statement**

*Kris's work is an examination of how line and dot can be used in various forms, through the application of pen and ink to create a finished product. With his creative process, comes his obsessive nature for each element of the composition to be exact, which results in various emotions from ambition to exhaustion. Combined with his respect of the formalities and visual variance of geometry, he intertwines myself into the work by showing the viewer the raw obsessiveness of who he is and what he creates. The repeated patterns throughout each composition allude to his precise creative practice as well as the exactness of each element that he chooses to demonstrate.*

#### **Kris Leathers: Artist Biography**

Kris Leathers began as a self-taught artist who works primarily in pen and ink. He is a senior at Augsburg University finishing a Studio Arts major and Art History minor. In his time at Augsburg he has been the recipient of the 2016 and 2017 All Student Juried Show 1<sup>st</sup> place awards for (Best of) Excellence and Best of Show. He learns best from working with those around him and enjoys a collaborative environment.

**Vatina McLaurin: Artist Statement**

*Vatina McLaurin's soft sculptures are wrapped in skins of naturally-dyed cotton and linen. She dyes textiles with food waste from her kitchen, letting the fiber soak and mold, and then stuffing and stitching each form. These sculptures—the "Blobs"—are embodied remnants of her life, created in a process that is sometimes repulsive and sometimes delightful. For the artist, nurturing these strange and beautiful forms into being represents her process of fully embracing and celebrating her queer self, in contrast to homophobic society's rhetoric of disgust and shame. The large soft sculptures are exhibited piled together as interconnected beings inhabiting space.*

**Vatina McLaurin: Artist Biography**

Vatina McLaurin is from Chicago and lives in South Minneapolis. She graduated from Augustana College in Rock Island, IL in 2014 with a BA in Cultural Anthropology and Interreligious Studies, and attended the Women's Art Institute at St. Catherine University in 2017. Vatina did a residency at the Wormfarm Institute and has shown work at the Figge Art Museum and the Textile Center. She teaches at Urban Arts Academy, an arts-based preschool in South Minneapolis where she and the preschoolers enjoy creating messy, process-based art together.

**Kimberly Wetzel: Artist Statement**

*Kimberly creates oil paintings that explore feelings of disconnect within a well-known space, matched with a desire to feel at home there. As time passes embodying a space feels expected yet the place continues to feel unfamiliar and out of reach. The figure/ground relationship begins to interweave as a search for ownership of space occurs and the stability of the recognizable is questioned.*

**Kimberly Wetzel: Artist Biography**

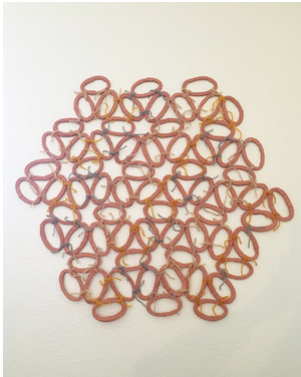
Kimberly Wetzel grew up in rural North Dakota and moved to Minneapolis, where she currently resides, to receive her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting in 2017 from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. Her practice consists mainly of large-scale oil paintings, seeking a mixture of gestural abstraction and representation. She creates work that leaves room for the viewer to engage with the formal and material qualities of the painting first before an image appears.

**Press Images**



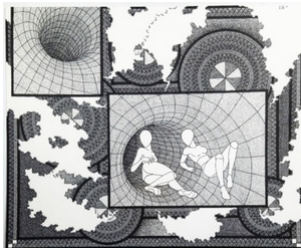
**Quinn Barnard**

*Disambiguation, 2018, Gesso, charcoal, latex paint and resin on paper, 30"x40"*



**Elizabeth Cleary**

*Tapestry II, 2018, Terra cotta clay and naturally dyed wool yarn (dyed with black beans, turmeric, onion skins, avocado skins), 36" x 40"*



**Kris Leathers**

*Slipped Narrative, 2018, Pen and ink, 14" x 17"*



**Vatina McLaurin**

*Blobs*, 2018, Cotton and linen (dyed with black beans, black walnut, onion skins, rust), thread, batting, 36" x 60" x 48"



**Kimberly Wetzel**

*Simple Wake*, 2016, Oil on canvas, 48" x 60"

#### **Press Images**

For high-res images:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/uu8m894u7b4oouw/AACVV1pWjP2U8u0flvhNwm07a?dl=0> or contact Joyce Lyon at [tlyonx001@umn.edu](mailto:tlyonx001@umn.edu)

#### **Mission Statement**

Form+Content Gallery nurtures diverse artistic practice and thoughtful dialogue. We value art as a catalyst for critical thinking. We value integrity and the artistic process. We aspire to link personal expression to broader social contexts. Form+Content Gallery is dedicated to moving the definitions and practice of culture forward in new and lively ways.