

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Confluence: Associate Artists Group Exhibition
February 1 – 25, 2024

First Friday: February 2, 5–8:30pm
Artists' Reception: Saturday, February 17, 2–5pm
Closing Reception: Sunday, February 25, 3–5pm
Gallery Hours: Wednesday – Sunday, 11am – 5pm

Confluence features the work of Boston Sculptors' 14 Associate Artists. Showcasing an array of media and inspired by themes ranging from symbiosis to chaos, to birth and death, to a cabinet of curiosities, this exhibition offers a sculptural snapshot of the moment in which we live.

A confluence of water and wood, **William Brayton's** work sparked from the visual connections between waves and wood grain. Sawn wooden parts accumulate in thick arcs, while undulating wave forms are stacked and interwoven in a stream. Aluminum elements and other objects are caught and submerged in the torrent, while shadows and voids inform the flow.

Elizabeth Cohen, Jaeok Lee and Jongeun Gina Lee investigate rites and rituals honoring the life cycle. Incorporating elements of Korean folk art and spirituality, Jaeok Lee's ceramic installation is a memorial to her beloved dog Dory. The work is both a poignant tribute and an expression of Korean cultural practices around mourning and remembrance—honoring the dead, guiding spirits to the afterlife, and comforting those who are living.

Elizabeth Cohen references ancient symbols with a fresh point of view in her hand-built porcelain *Fertility Necklace* series. Cohen explores concepts of growth using casts from plaster molds of the artist's daughter while pregnant to create oversized, ecstatic organic forms adorned in the historically symbolic colors of green and scarlet.

The architectural abstractions of Jongeun Gina Lee's hand-built ceramic series *Noah's Ark* reflect the artist's experiences with immigration and fertility treatments. Inspired by the Biblical story of Noah's arduous journey, the work is a meditation on isolation and the confluence of repeated disappointment and the ongoing revival of hope.

Jeffrey Nowlin strives to activate our senses beyond the visual. The erotically charged *Objects of Desire*, composed of various materials and arrayed on a table, invite us to touch, which may delight, disgust, or deliver a smirk to the willing participant viewer. Suspended above, *A Snake in the House* complements the installation, floating its sinuous body honed from the ephemera of the craft closet.

Aaron Brodeur's work is an interpretation of the historical Wunderkammer, or cabinet of curiosities. This diverse spectrum of eclectic creations is a living archive. At once playful and mysterious, these works capture moments that serve as silent commemorations to undisclosed components which played pivotal roles in shaping the artist's character and inner world.

Lisa Barthelson, Martha Chason-Sokol, and Rebecca McGee Tuck, rely on recycled and reused materials to create their work. Martha Chason-Sokol's work is rooted in notions of repair. Obsolete remnants, from pots and pans, extension cords, prescription pill bottles and broken fans, become figural beings wrapped and bound with tape and fiber. Built from the detritus of everyday life, these cobbled characters enact a narrative of rebirth and reevaluation.

Lisa Barthelson's suspended sculpture is a cascading amalgamation of her family's plastic and paper debris. The intricate interplay of discarded fragments embodies the tense confluence of convenience, sustainability, and nature in a world threatened by the consequences of fossil fuels, rampant consumption, and "forever" plastic pollution.

In *Symbiosis*, Rebecca McGee Tuck takes inspiration from fungi, nature's own recyclers, digesting organic matter and replenishing the soil. Her mushroom sculpture erupts in a raucous celebratory array of colorful materials, urging us to emulate the mushroom's mutual partnership and adopt mushroom-like practices—reduce, reuse, repurpose, and recycle—to sustain a harmonious relationship with our planet.

Joan Mullen's work often features sculptures created by modeled cast forms and found objects with additional materials and processes to heighten their psychological impact. In *Gathering*, abstract organic forms convey a gathering of beings coming together. In *Cover VII*, Mullen pieces together found and raw materials in an investigation of the notion of concealment.

Ceramic artists **Delanie Kabrick Wise** and **Bruce Armitage** explore themes of universal human experiences in their figurative work. Wise surprises us as she bisects heads and bodies to reveal floral interiors reminiscent of delicate Delftware. For the artist, each is a kind of self-portrait, not in the literal sense, but as they reflect her own sensibilities and embrace the notion that her own life experiences are not so unique as they are universal.

Armitage convenes a motley crew of unsuspecting characters in his jovial, lighthearted sculpture *Click*, capturing that awkward moment in a group photo when people are not yet posed with a winning camera-ready smile. In this era of slick, filtered, and re-touched images, it's a reminder of the authentic and unpolished part of being human.

Hillel O'Leary's sculptures are a mixture of technological and hand fabrication in Italian marble, steel, and acrylic. The work addresses the dislocation of time, space, and belonging that come with the experience of navigating the world as a queer member of a diaspora culture. They focus on locations and references embedded within the landscape, the historical strata, and the self.

Stacy Latt Savage's work embodies visceral tension and spiraling momentum—a reflection of our turbulent times and palpable sense of global unrest. Coaxing raw materials to create vortices and cyclonic forms, Savage harnesses an energy that mirrors life's unpredictability, mining fear and chaos in confluence with the sublime.

Confluence is the fourth annual exhibition of Boston Sculptors Associate Artists and a wonderful opportunity to experience a diverse array of work by a multi-talented group of sculptors.

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Confluence: Associate Artists' Group Exhibition - Image Selection

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Bruce Armitage



Lisa Barthelson



William Brayton



Aaron Brodeur



Martha Chason-Sokol



Elizabeth Cohen



Jaeok Lee



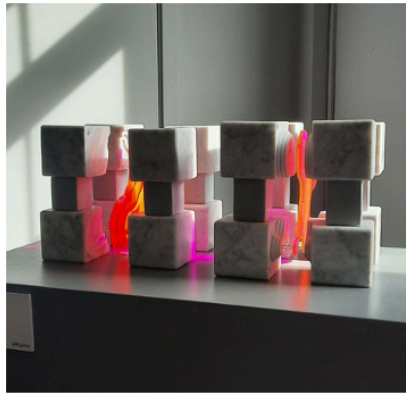
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Delanie Kabrick Wise

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