



**Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts
Alumni Exhibition at New York Galleries**

*New York shows feature recent graduates from renowned programs of
Painting and Printmaking, Sculpture + Extended Media*

Richmond, VA, April 26, 2017—This summer, Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts (VCUarts) alumni from the Department of Painting and Printmaking and the Department of Sculpture + Extended Media will present concurrent exhibitions of their work. The dual shows will provide art curators, collectors, critics, and enthusiasts an opportunity to experience the talent cultivated by VCU's School of the Arts.

"The biennial New York exhibitions have become a tradition for us," says VCUarts Interim Dean James Frazier. "They're a rite of passage of sorts, celebrating the completion of the degree in a professionally relevant context, as recent grads collaborate on all the logistics that go into preparing to exhibit their work in a nonprofit or commercial gallery, while also supporting the opportunity for their work to be seen by a New York audience."

WHATEVERBEING

VCU Painting and Printmaking MFA Exhibition

August 26—September 17, 2017

Reception: Saturday, August 26, 6:00—8:00pm

Present Company

254 Johnson Ave

Brooklyn, NY 11206

<http://www.present-co.com/>

Whateverbeing showcases artwork from 15 graduates of the Painting and Printmaking MFA program, including Sarah Coote, director of Richmond's Bruce Martin Gallery; María Tinaut, who last year exhibited the solo show *What might have been lost* in Mexico and the two-person exhibition *Memoria construida* in Spain; and Will Matheson, the 2017 artist-in-residence at MASS MoCA.

Exhibiting Painting and Printmaking artists are:

Saulat Ajmal

Carolina Aranibar-Fernandez

Wesley Chavis
Sarah Coote
Eric Diehl
Mathew Gasperek
Devin Harclerode
Will Matheson
Beatrice Modisett
Kristen Sanders
Jon Rehwoldt
Jake Reller
Ricardo Vicente Jose Ruiz
Ryan Syrell
María Tinaut

Whateverbeing is curated by Owen Duffy, an art historian, curator, and writer living in New York. He has published in *ArtReview*, *art&education*, and *Momus*. He has been a visiting critic at Rhode Island School of Design and has presented his research at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond. Duffy earned his Ph.D. in art history from Virginia Commonwealth University.

before the foot was purple

VCU Sculpture + Extended Media MFA Exhibition

June 9 – 25, 2017

Reception: Friday, June 9, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

David & Schweitzer Contemporary

56 Bogart Street

Brooklyn, NY 11206

<http://davidandschweitzer.com>

Featuring the artwork of 12 recent Sculpture + Extended Media MFA graduates, *before the foot was purple* includes work by John Orth, 2017 Dedalus Foundation Fellow; Levester Williams, 2016 artist-in-residence at University of Ann Arbor, Michigan; and Savannah Knoop, former public persona of author JT LeRoy, who recently exhibited *Heads and Tails* at ACP, a gallery at a private home in Hollywood.

Exhibiting Sculpture + Extended Media artists are:

J. Avery Theodore Daisey
Ryan Flores
Shana Hoehn
Ellie Hunter
Anthony Iacono

Savannah Knoop
Hallie McNeill
Leyla Mozayen
John Orth
Steven Randall
Pallavi Sen
Levester Williams

before the foot was purple is curated by Matt King, chair of the department of Sculpture + Extended Media and associate professor of sculpture. He received his M.F.A. from Bard College, is a graduate of Cooper Union, and participated in the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program. Honors include a 2012 – 2013 Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Visual Arts Fellowship, a MacDowell Colony Fellowship, and visiting artist residencies at Fiskars Village, Finland; National Centre for Contemporary Arts in St. Petersburg, Russia; and at the American Academy in Rome. His professional work in sculpture, photography, and drawing has been shown at The Massachusetts College of Art and Design, The University of Georgia, Werkstätte (NY), Massimo Audiello (NY), Reynolds Gallery (Richmond, VA) and Fourteen30 Contemporary (Portland, OR), as well as group exhibitions at Jane Lombard, Guild & Greyshkul, Luhring Augustine, Stux Gallery, and the Vienna Kunsthalle.

These exhibitions are supported by the VCUarts Dean's Office.

About VCU Department of Painting and Printmaking

The Department of Painting and Printmaking has earned a national reputation for its practice-based teaching, accomplished faculty, and dual focus on traditional and digital media. Its MFA program is ranked among the top 10 graduate painting programs in the country by *U.S. News and World Report*.

Full-time faculty are artists Peter Baldes, Cara Benedetto, Ruth Bolduan, Sally Bowring, Hope Ginsburg, Reni Gower, Ron Johnson, Holly Morrison, Javier Tapia, Hilary Wilder, and critic/curator Gregory Volk.

Alumni include Amanda Baldwin, Trudy Benson, James Busby, Philip Hinge, Loie Hollowell, Ander Mikalson, Monica Palma, Veronika Pausova, and Grace Weaver.

Recent visiting artists and scholars include Candida Alvarez, Douglas Boatwright, Kristin Calabrese, Alejandro Cesarco, Mike Cloud, Abigail Deville, Teto Elsiddique, Rochelle Feinstein, Keith Mayerson, Ulrike Muller, Dona Nelson, Sondra Perry, Fred Wilson, and Norbert Witzgall.

About VCU Department of Sculpture + Extended Media

The Department of Sculpture + Extended Media represents a spectrum of direction and philosophical attitudes—exposing students to traditional sculpture media and encouraging them to explore the parameters of technology and pursue interdisciplinary activities. The department

stresses the connections between art, science, the humanities, and the world, and is the number-one-ranked sculpture program, according to *U.S. News and World Report*.

Full-time VCU Sculpture faculty members are Kendall Buster, Corin Hewitt, Matt King, Massa Lemu, Michael Jones McKean, Irvin Morazan, Carlton Newton, and Gregory Volk.

Alumni include Taylor Baldwin, SunTek Chung, Bonnie Collura, Tara Donovan, Teresita Fernández, Diana Al-Hadid, Dawn Kasper, Lindsay Lawson, Ian McMahon, Oscar Santillan, and Alina Tenser.

Recent visiting artists and scholars include Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev, Math Bass, Brian Bress, Mark Dion, Gordon Hall, Graham Harman, Leslie Hewitt, Steffani Jemison, Clifford Owens, Ernesto Pujol, Frances Stark, A.L. Steiner, Claude Wampler, and Anicka Yi.

About VCU and VCU School of the Arts

VCU is an urban, public research university with national and international rankings in sponsored research. Located in Richmond, VA, VCU enrolls more than 31,000 students in 222 degree and certificate programs in the arts, sciences, and humanities. VCU School of the Arts offers 15 undergraduate and 10 graduate degree programs in fine arts, design, performing arts, historical research, and pedagogical practice. Upon enrollment, students join a community of highly accomplished artists, designers, performers, scholars, and mentors who share a steadfast commitment to excellence and exploration.

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