

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ruth Tabancay, *Extending the Useful Life* (2010), hand stitched tea bags. Courtesy of the Artist.

Exhibition Announcement: ***Interconnected***

October 23 - November 20, 2021

Curated by Jurors Jackie Clay and Jillian Crochet

Artists: Joseph Alef, Crystal Azul, Sharmi Basu, Carlos Fernandez, Luis Garcia, Felicia Griffin, Shana Harper, Steph Kudisch, Darrin Martin, Tricia Rainwater-Tutwiler, Clio Sady, Ruth Tabancay, Anthony Tusler, Rachel Ungerer, Monica Valentine, George Wilson

October 19, 2021, San Francisco, CA – Southern Exposure is proud to present *Interconnected*, our 30th Annual Juried Exhibition. Curated by Jackie Clay and Jillian Crochet, *Interconnected* features the work of 16 Bay Area-based artists with disabilities. These powerful works address themes of (or longing for) connection and community — finding alternate ways of being, feeling and thinking through tactility and touch, haptics, color, sound and line. The exhibition will be on view October 23 - November 20, 2021. Don't miss the opening reception Friday, October 22, 2021, 5:00 - 8:30 pm.

Southern Exposure's Annual Entry-Fee-Free Juried Exhibition is the Bay Area's premier showcase of promising local talent. Each year, artists working in a wide variety of visual arts media submit their work for consideration by renowned curators from outside the Bay Area, who gain unique insight into the Bay Area's dynamic creative ethos. The program provides opportunities for emerging artists to introduce their work to new audiences in the Bay Area. Unlike many open calls that charge a submission fee, Southern Exposure's juried exhibition has never charged an entry fee, enabling a significant, diverse pool of artists to submit works for consideration. In fact, artists in Southern Exposure's Juried Exhibition are paid a small stipend for their participation. Each year, the Juried Show is the first major exhibition for many of the emerging artists selected and a catalyst for their art careers. Due to the long-standing reputation of the exhibition, established artists often seek this opportunity to break away from their recognized practice.

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For thirty years, the Juried Exhibition has introduced exciting Bay Area artists to new curators. This year, I've been thrilled to see Jackie Clay and Jillian Crochet center work by artists with disabilities. The diversity of the work included in this exhibition reflects the diversity of experience of disability. People with disabilities constitute the largest marginalized community and face particular challenges despite the reality that most people will experience disability at some point in their lifetime. We, like so many arts organizations, have historically operated from ableist frameworks, and we recommit to greater accessibility.

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- Valerie Imus, Artistic and Co-Director

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In honor of this year being the 30th Annual Juried Exhibition, we look back to the many amazing artists who have participated in previous juried exhibitions and have gone on to make meaningful art and a big impact in the Bay Area and beyond. Artists including Barry McGee (1991), Ruby Neri (1992), Jason

Jägel (1994), Amanda Huguen (1997), Lindsey White (2005), JD Beltran (2005), Chris Koehler (2007), Meryl Pataky (2010), and so many more have been featured in our juried exhibitions over the last 30 years. We at Southern Exposure are humbled by the talented artists we get the opportunity to work with every day. This upcoming show continues in this line of excellence.

This year's exhibition features tremendously impactful installations including a 27-foot woven tapestry by Creative Growth artist Monica Valentine, an immersive VR sound and performance installation by Sharmi Basu, a twin-sized bed installation with bedding made of tea bags by Ruth Tabancay, and a large-scale ceramic sculpture by Steph Kudisch that translates data from the artist's reconstructive surgeries and generates its own haptics and owl-like sounds.

In addressing disability as the topic of this year's Juried Show, we affirm that people with disabilities have an important and valuable perspective that we must recognize and uplift. SoEx asserts that disability must be included in conversations about inclusion and diversity. People with disabilities make up one of the largest marginalized and often overlooked communities. SoEx commits to learning from and righting past mistakes to become a truly inclusive organization. We seek to radicalize our language and not shy away from the use of the word disability.

## PROJECT + EVENT INFORMATION

What: *Interconnected*  
Southern Exposure's 30th Annual Juried Exhibition  
Curated by Jackie Clay and Jillian Crochet, the exhibition features the work of 16 Bay Area-based artists with disabilities. These powerful works address themes of (or longing for) connection and community — finding alternate ways of being, feeling and thinking through tactility and touch, haptics, color, sound and line.

When: October 23 - November 20, 2021  
12:00 - 6:00 PM, Wednesday - Saturday

Location: Southern Exposure, 3030 20th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110

What: *Interconnected* Opening Reception

When: Friday, October 22, 2021, 5:00 - 8:00 PM

Location: Southern Exposure, 3030 20th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110  
Limited capacity, monitored at door

## ABOUT THE JURORS

Jackie Clay (she/her), Juror: is the Executive Director at the Coleman Center for the Arts, a contemporary arts organization that produces socially engaged public art projects in the Alabama Black Belt region. In addition to her work in Sumter County, she has organized exhibitions at the ICA LA, et al gallery (San Francisco), and the Alabama Contemporary Art Center (Mobile). She has contributed to catalogs including Prospect 4, black is a color, and the Greenwood Art Project. She hosts Monograph, a documentary series produced by Alabama Public Television that focuses on creative practice both inside and outside the traditional arts framework. A graduate from California College of the Arts with dual-interdisciplinary degrees, her intellectual practice centers on black visual culture. Clay believes art and art institutions should service their publics, and organizations should encourage or sustain collective community health.

Jillian Crochet (she/her), Juror: is an interdisciplinary artist based in the Bay Area working in sculpture, video, and performance to confront grief and disability. Her practice seeks to liberate the disabled body from normalized marginalization and oppression. She is a 2020-21 Artist in Residence at Art Beyond Sight's Art & Disability program and was a 2020-21 Graduate Fellow at Headlands Center for the Arts. She currently has work in *Crip Time* at the Museum für Moderne Kunst in Frankfurt, Germany, and *Able Zine* based in London, UK. She earned her BFA from the University of Alabama in 2007 and an MFA in Fine Arts from California College of the Arts in 2020.

## ADDITIONAL IMAGES

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1VvburnzAjjDBjq9ZoADmrRqEhYOLUsLT?usp=sharing>

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## ABOUT SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

Southern Exposure (SoEx) is an artist-centered nonprofit organization committed to supporting visual artists. Through our extensive and innovative programming, SoEx strives to experiment, collaborate and further educate while providing an extraordinary resource center and forum for Bay Area and national artists in our Mission District space and off-site, in the public realm.

An active presence in the Bay Area since 1974, SoEx is continually evolving in response to the needs of artists and the community while engaging the public in artists' work. Central to our mission is to remain the most accessible space for visual artists to produce and present new work, learn, and connect. SoEx provides visual artists with the tools and resources they need to experiment in an open and supportive environment. We also work to advocate to new, diverse audiences and build an ever-growing community of enthusiasts and supporters of the visual arts.

**S O U T H E R N**  
**E X P O S U R E**

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For more information and images, contact Emma Rosenbaum at (415) 863-2141 x102 or [emma@soex.org](mailto:emma@soex.org). Southern Exposure is located at 3030 20th Street (at Alabama), San Francisco, CA 94110. Office hours are Monday - Friday, 10:00AM to 6:00PM.

Website: <https://soex.org/>

Instagram: @southernexposuresf

Southern Exposure is generously supported by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Bill Graham Supporting Foundation, California Arts Council, California Humanities, Creative Work Fund, The Fleishhacker Foundation, The Gelfand Family Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, The Nicholson Family Foundation, The pH Foundation, The Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation, San Francisco Arts Commission, San Francisco Grants for the Arts, The Violet World Foundation, Walter & Elise Haas Fund and The Zellerbach Family Foundation.