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Joy O. Ude, Image courtesy of the artist

Project Announcement: *Once Removed*

April 17 - May 22, 2021

Curated by Kija Lucas

Artists: Miguel Arzabe with Sonia Arzabe & Humberto Arzabe, May Gaspay & Mik Gaspay, Melissa Joseph, Sriba Kwadjovie, Charlene Tan, and Joy O. Ude.

April 5, 2021, San Francisco, CA – Southern Exposure is pleased to announce the reopening of our gallery for viewing by appointment, with the exhibition *Once Removed*. Curated by artist and Southern Exposure Curatorial Council Member Kija Lucas, *Once Removed* is an exhibition of work by artists who are incorporating traditional textile and movement techniques alongside new material strategies. Artists in this exhibition draw from their ancestral traditions as well as personal experiences to create works

that explore tradition and belonging while living in an in-between space, weaving together quotidian materials and contemporary art practice with traditional craft techniques. The exhibition features textile based objects and installations.

The artists hail from diverse diasporas and draw on these individual experiences in their work. Joy O. Ude layers traditional wax-dyed fabric from her parents native Nigeria with photographs and embroidery to create complex abstract textile works. For *Once Removed*, Ude creates a dome installation covered in her hand-crafted fabric. Melissa Joseph's Memory Pairing assemblages layer childhood photographs printed on Indian duppioni silks with found objects. The silks are folded and draped in ways that are traditional for draping sari.

San Francisco-based artist Miguel Arzabe weaves together art world ephemera in processes that are reminiscent of textile traditions of the artist's Bolivian heritage. His patterns are inspired by Andean motifs that describe regional environments and narratives, while referencing the Bay Area arts community and the fleeting nature of our interwoven existences. This new series of work is created in collaboration with Arzabe's parents, Sonia Arzabe and Humberto Arzabe.

Mik Gaspay collaborates with his mother May to create a room size installation of hanging quilts inspired by her memories of their ancestral home in the Northern Philippines.

Work by Bay Area artist Charlene Tan regularly plays on the tension between handicrafts and the readymade. In her recent work, she turns to her grandmother's embroidery business and Filipino tribal weavings. She recreates patterns that traditionally represent attempts to appease spirits, or those used in fabrics to wrap the dead. Traditionally, color and materials are specific to regional flora and fauna, while Tan incorporates both everyday sources such as food and more "high-end" materials like pearls. For *Once Removed*, she creates a mural-size installation.

These works explore the complexities of post-colonial diasporic identity, playing with the fleeting nature of memory and examining the ways in which traditional skills are shared, passed on, and reinvented in a digital age.

PROJECT INFORMATION

- What: *Once Removed*
Curated by Kija Lucas, *Once Removed* is a group exhibition of work by artists who are incorporating traditional textile and movement techniques alongside new material strategies. Artists in this exhibition draw from their ancestral traditions as well as personal experiences to create works that explore tradition and belonging while living in an in-between space, weaving together quotidian materials and contemporary art practice with traditional craft techniques.
- When: April 17 through May 22, 2021
Tuesday – Saturday, 12:00PM – 6:00PM *by appointment only*
Viewing appointments may be made at calendly.com
- Location: Southern Exposure, 3030 20th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Kija Lucas is an artist based in the San Francisco Bay Area. She uses photography to explore ideas of home, heritage and inheritance. She is interested in how ideas are passed down and seemingly inconsequential moments create changes that last generations. Her work has been exhibited at Oakland Museum of California, Anglim Gilbert Gallery, Headlands Center for the Arts, San Francisco Arts Commission Galleries, California

Institute of Integral Studies, Palo Alto Arts Center, Intersection for the Arts, Mission Cultural Center, and Root Division, as well as Venice Arts in Los Angeles, CA, La Sala d'Ercole/Hercules Hall in Bologna Italy, and Casa Escorsa in Guadalajara, Mexico. Lucas has been an Artist in Residence at Montalvo Center for the Arts, Grin City Collective, and The Wassaic Artist Residency. She is a member of 3.9 Art Collective and the Curatorial Council at Southern Exposure. Lucas received her BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute and her MFA from Mills College.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Miguel Arzabe makes colorful and dynamic abstractions - paper weavings, paintings, videos - to recover moments of uncanny human interconnectedness. Arzabe lives in Oakland and is a charter studio member at Minnesota Street Project in San Francisco. Arzabe's work has been featured in such festivals as Hors Pistes (Centre Pompidou, Paris) and the Festival du Nouveau Cinéma (Montreal); and in museums and galleries including MAC Lyon (France), MARS Milan (Italy), RM Projects (Auckland), FIFI Projects (Mexico City), Marylhurst University (Oregon), Berkeley Art Museum, Albuquerque Museum of Art, the de Young Museum, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. He has held many residencies including Facebook AIR, Headlands Center for the Arts, Montalvo Arts Center, and Santa Fe Art Institute. He holds a BS from Carnegie Mellon University, an MS from Arizona State University, and an MFA from UC Berkeley.

May Gaspay was born and raised in the Northern part of the Philippines. She immigrated to the U.S. in 1984 with spouse and 4 children. Gaspay has worked as a registered nurse for 25 years at Stanford Hospital while raising 4 kids and supporting a post-grad husband. Gaspay has been quilting since moving to the U.S. and continues to quilt and raise children in her home base daycare in Palo Alto.

Mik Gaspay (b. 1976 in Quezon City, Philippines) lives and works in San Francisco. Gaspay received his MFA from California College of the Arts in 2011. Gaspay has had a solo exhibition at Alter Space Gallery in San Francisco. He has also participated in various group shows in museums and spaces including the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco, Art Gallery at the University of Hawaii in Hilo, WhiteBox Gallery in New York. Gaspay was awarded a commission by the Chinese Culture Center in San Francisco for a permanent public art installation in San Francisco Chinatown's Portsmouth Square Bridge.

Melissa Joseph is interested in connecting people through collective memory and shared experiences. Her work addresses themes of diaspora, family histories and the politics of how we occupy spaces. Her work has been shown at the Lite Haus Gallery, Delaware Contemporary, Woodmere Art Museum, Southern Exposure, Bemis Center for Contemporary Art, Rider University, Collar Works, RegularNormal and featured in New American Paintings, ArtMaze, and Maake Magazine. She participated in residencies at the Center // Substructured Loss (Berlin), the Growlery (SF) Chautauqua Visual Arts (NY) the Textile Arts Center (NY) BRIC (NY), and, currently the DieuDonne Workspace Residency (NY) and the Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts Studio Program (NY). She is represented by RegularNormal Gallery in New York.

Charlene Tan is an artist who lives and works in the San Francisco Bay Area. Born in Houston, Texas she spent most of her childhood in the Philippines only to return to San Francisco to begin her education. Her work has been shown at Intersection for the Arts, Marin Headlands Center for the Arts, [2nd floor projects], ampersand international arts, and Southern Exposure among other spaces. Her practice is diverse ranging from sculpture to performance, investigating topics on assimilation, consumer culture, digital loss of imagery via facsimile, and post-colonial immigrant diaspora.

Joy O. Ude is a mixed-media artist and designer. In her artwork, she explores Black culture as a subset of American culture. As an American-born child of Nigerian immigrants, she also reflects on the concept of duality. Ude earned her BFA in Fashion Design in 2005 from the University of North Texas. After working in the fashion industry, she attended grad school and earned an MFA in Fiber Arts from the University of North in 2013. Her work has been included in several regional and national shows including: CraftTexas, Fantastic Fibers, Fiberart International, and ArtSeen. Ude also teaches fiber-based workshops, most recently at Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts. Ude is currently STEAM Education Coordinator at Independence Seaport Museum, a visiting artist at Mural Arts, and a member of FJORD Gallery in Philadelphia, PA.

Sriba Kwadjovie Quintana was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area and began her African Diasporic dance training with the Beatriz Ross Cultural Dance Ensemble along with classical ballet training with the Oakland Ballet and Ballet Petit. She has worked with notable Bay Area based dance companies such as Robert Moses' Kin, Company Chaddick, Leyya Tawil's Dance ELIXIR, Epiphany Dance Theater and Kiandanda Dance Theater. In 2015 Sriba was selected to choreograph and perform a solo project for the 2015 Havana Biennial opening of the "Mirage" exhibition in Cuba. When she's not dancing, Sriba enjoys engaging in matters relating to intellectual property and traveling.

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ABOUT SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

Southern Exposure (SoEx) is an artist-centered non-profit 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.

For more information and images, contact Stevie Sokolouski at (415) 863-2141 x102 or stephen@soex.org. Southern Exposure is located at 3030 20th Street (at Alabama), San Francisco, CA 94110. Office hours are Wednesday through Friday, 12:00PM to 5:00PM. *Please note that our office hours are limited and our main gallery is currently only open by appointment only in accordance with San Francisco's health and safety guidelines.*

Website: soex.org.

Southern Exposure is generously supported by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Bill Graham Supporting Foundation, California Arts Council, The Fleishhacker Foundation, The Gelfand Family Foundation, The Mel and Leta Ramos 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 Arts & Artists Relief Fund, San Francisco Grants for the Arts, The Violet World Foundation, Walter & Elise Haas Fund and The Zellerbach Family Foundation.