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We use our hands to support publication excerpt, design by Ginger Brooks Takahashi

Project Announcement: *We use our hands to support*

May 29 - July 3, 2021

Curated by Lukaza Branfman-Verissimo

Artists: Fronteristxs Collective, Amanda Curreri, Kimi Hanauer, and Sam Vernon

May 11, 2021, San Francisco, CA – Southern Exposure is pleased to announce *We use our hands to support*, a group exhibition and a multi-layered project visioned and gathered by Artist/Educator/Curator Lukaza Branfman-Verissimo, a member of Southern Exposure’s Curatorial Council. When crafting this show, Lukaza was deeply inspired by the strategies that each of these artists hold in their practices. Their strategies, thoughts and work have guided the direction of the show. The overarching vision was to imagine an exhibition guided by the work of Fronteristxs Collective, Amanda Curreri, Kimi Hanauer, and Sam Vernon, living side by side.

Enveloping the entrance wall and front window, the aesthetics of resistance and facial recognition in *House of Anaesthetics*, by Fronteristxs Collective, asks us to deeply consider and examine the ways that surveillance is ingrained and implicated within our lives. We are invited to become aware of our bodies as we enter into the show. Brushing the tops of our heads, hanging from the ceiling, Sam Vernon’s series of banners/flags, *Front Matter*, educates, telling the stories of *Black Scholar: A Journal of Black Studies* from the 1970s. The Journal’s covers, once printed in graphic black and white on paper, are now printed on organza, collaged images in brilliant reds, exposing Bay Area Black radical history. We are invited to conjure our resistance roots and bring them with us as we journey to *Cento for a Future Now*. A stack of scripts sit on the floor, inviting us into the multiple works made by Amanda Curreri. Three garments, hanging jean offerings, clam noise makers and a painted map mural, asks the viewers to interact with, hold and speak to issues of laboring environments, sites of anarchy and uprising. We are invited to bring our voices into future making at the opening of the Center for Liberatory Practices & Poetry, led by Kimi Hanauer. An installation filled with brightly colored manifestos, banners, newspapers and videos, inspiring us to imagine and work towards “a place where we can share in a breath and lean into all the ways we might transform one another”.

We use our hands to support is a project, a manifesto, a tool for survival and continuing, a lens to see the world through, a cape, a mask, a screen, a pattern, a disguise, a pile of your favorite books, an abolitionist, a banner, a scream, a stack, a non-hierarchical space, a living organism. Activist, educator, thinker Grace Lee Boggs, asks us, “who is going to begin this new story?” and we answer that we need new language, we need to dig deep, pull up the unseen histories, look into each other’s eyes, tear all the walls down, center liberatory practices, use our hands to reimagine everything. This space commits to beginning this story and visioning that another world is possible, in honor of Grace, and in solidarity with the folks caged in detention centers, jails and prisons.

Over the course of a month, we will build this space together. With our hands, our hard work, our bodies, our chosen family, our new family, our neighborhoods, and with our loved ones far away. We look forward to building with you.

We use our hands to support will exist in numerous layers, creating an overlapping stack: a ‘physical space’ will hold work in Southern Exposure’s gallery by Amanda Curreri, Sam Vernon, Kimi Hanauer and Fronteristxs Collective; a ‘printed document’ designed and crafted by Ginger Brooks Takahashi; and an ‘online’ layer available through the Southern Exposure website. We invite you in as deep as you wish. The physical space will be open by appointment from May 29 – July 3, 2021. The printed layer (which will become its own stack) will be sent out via United States Postal Service throughout the course of the show; and the online layer which will be a continual tool for ongoing learning and interaction with the work. To sign up to receive the printed document layer, please fill out this form: <https://tinyurl.com/soexhands>

PROJECT + EVENT INFORMATION

What: *We use our hands to support*
Curated by Lukaza Branfman-Verissimo, *We use our hands to support* is a group exhibition and a multi-layered project featuring work by Fronteristxs Collective, Amanda Curreri, Kimi Hanauer, and Sam Vernon.

When: May 29 – July 3, 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

What: *We use our hands to support* collective reading event
Join us for a public collective reading of, how is speech a desire, a hope, a promise, a text by Kimi Hanauer on the sidewalk outside of Southern Exposure. Visitors will be invited to participate.

When: Thursday, June 3, 2021 at 5:30PM
Limited capacity; RSVP at calendly.com

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

What: Center for Liberatory Practice & Poetry Office Hours
Come learn about the Center and find ways of getting involved.

When: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 from 1:00-3:00PM
Thursday, June 3, 2021 from 1:00-3:00PM

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

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Lukaza Branfman-Verissimo (she/her/they/them) is an artist, activist, educator, storyteller & curator who lives/works between Ohlone Land [Oakland, CA] and Powhatan Land [Richmond, VA]. Their work has been included in exhibitions and performances at Konsthall C [Stockholm, Sweden], SEPTEMBER Gallery [Hudson, NY], EFA Project Space [New York City, NY], Leslie Lohman Museum [New York City, NY], San Francisco State University Gallery, Signal Center for Contemporary Art [Malmo, Sweden], Yerba Buena Center for the Arts [San Francisco, CA] and Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive [Berkeley, CA], amongst others. For the past 5 years, Lukaza has been the Lead Curator at Nook Gallery, collaborating with over 80+ artists, writers, performers & musicians, in a gallery located in their apartment kitchen. They are currently getting their MFA from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

The fronteristxs collective consists of artists in New Mexico working to end migrant detention and to abolish the prison industrial complex. We believe in and fight for a world of liberation for all. We partner with other artists and advocates towards the long-term goal of abolition and building solidarity economies based on self-determination, justice, sustainability, and cooperation. We reject the current system of racial capitalism that extracts resources from human beings and the rest of the natural world.

Amanda Curreri is an artist and educator. Necessarily optimistic, her artwork is interdisciplinary and dialogic. It is situated between sculpture, textiles, social practice, publishing, performance, and pedagogy. Textiles are key to the work for their ability to invite an experience of collectivity and connection. She currently lives on the unceded territory of Tewa and Pueblo Peoples also known as Albuquerque, NM. Curreri has recently exhibited at the Oakland Museum of California, Cincinnati Art Museum, Contemporary Arts Center (Cincinnati), Asian Art Museum (SF), Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (SF), Ortega y Gasset Projects (NY), and the Incheon Women's Biennale, Korea. She is a recipient of an Alumni Traveling Scholars Fellowship from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (2017) to research textiles in Japan, a Pogue Wheeler Research Grant from DAAP to study textiles and architecture in Mexico, a Summerfair Aid for Individual Artists grant (2017), and a SF Guardian Goldie Award (2010). Reviews of her work have appeared in the New York Times, Artforum, VICE, Hyperallergic, Frieze Art,

KQED Arts, San Francisco Chronicle, and more. Curreri co-directs a small-run artists press, Special Collections Press, in partnership with the arts library at the University of Cincinnati where she is an assistant professor in the School of Art. For the academic years '19/20 and '20/21, Curreri will be on research leave as a visiting artist at the University of New Mexico with the Honors College and the College of Fine Arts. Curreri holds an MFA from the California College of the Arts, a BFA from The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and a BA from Tufts University in Sociology and Peace & Justice Studies. Curreri is represented by Romer Young Gallery in San Francisco, California.

Kimi Hanauer is a cultural and media-based organizer, writer, and a founding collective member of Press Press, currently based on the unceded land of the Gabrielino / Tongva peoples, also known as Los Angeles. Kimi is currently in the process of initiating the Center for Liberatory Practice & Poetry, a virtual and nomadic education center that nourishes a network of shared learnings, dreams, strategies, and rituals as the building blocks for autonomous and liberated communities.

Sam Vernon is a visual artist who earned her MFA in painting and printmaking from Yale University. Her installations combine Xeroxed drawings, photographs, paintings, and sculptural components in an exploration of personal narrative and identity. Recent solo exhibitions at venues including San Francisco's Museum of the African Diaspora; UT Downtown Gallery, Knoxville, Tennessee; G44 Centre for Contemporary Photography, Toronto; and Seattle Art Museum, Olympic Sculpture Park. Her work has been part of groups exhibitions at, among other institutions, California African American Museum; San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art, Barney Savage Gallery and The Cooper Union, New York; Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco; We Buy Gold, Brooklyn; Brooklyn Museum; Queens Museum; and the Drawing Room, London. Honors received include San Francisco Artadia Awards finalist; Sally and Don Lucas Artists Program (LAP) Visual Arts Fellowship; Artistes en Résidence, Clermont-Ferrand, France; Fountainhead Residency, Miami; Helen Watson Winternitz Award, Yale University; Emma Bee Bernstein Fellowship, A.I.R. Gallery, Brooklyn, and A.I.R. Gallery Emerging Arts Fellowship. Collaborative projects include visual art contributor to The Arsonist, a play by Mai Sennaar, at Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco; Broadside Press, with poets Danez Smith and Nathan McClain; and Black Women Arts for Black Lives Matter, New Museum, New York; and performer, Ganggang: Creative Misunderstandings Series, organized by Alejandro Guzman, Brooklyn Museum. Vernon has been a panelist, moderator, or guest lecturer at, among others, San Francisco State University; University of California, Berkeley; Watkins College of Art, Nashville; Utah State University; Barnard College; Union College; and Voelker Orth Museum, Queens, New York.

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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.

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 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.