

OPEN MIND ART SPACE

TEMPORARY EXISTENCE

JAKE MARTINEZ
MATTHEW NESPOR
RORY NESTER
STEPHEN SARIÑANA-LAMPSON
CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR

JULY 10-24, 2021

OPENING RECEPTION:
SATURDAY, JULY 10, 4-8 PM

OPEN MIND ART SPACE

11631 SANTA MONICA BLVD.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90025
WED - SAT, 11AM - 5PM



From left to right, by row: Artworks by Jake Martinez, Matthew Nespor, Stephen Sariñana-Lampson, Rory Nester and Christopher Taylor

(LOS ANGELES, CA) - Open Mind Art Space is pleased to present **TEMPORARY EXISTENCE**, a group exhibition showcasing works by five recent graduates from the Master of Arts and Master of Fine Arts programs at California State University, Northridge. Jake Martinez, Matthew Nespor, Rory Nester, Stephen Sariñana-Lampson and Christopher Taylor will exhibit select works from their final graduate project presentations. The gallery will host an opening reception for the artists on Saturday, July 10th from 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM, and the exhibition will be on view through July 24th.

Using a camera to document places or moments, clay to make tangible relics and charcoal to convey the ephemeral, the artists in **TEMPORARY EXISTENCE** present images and objects that carry deeply personal significance. Felt throughout the exhibition is a longing to hold onto transient memories, an urgency to narrate untold histories, and a vulnerable desire to confront the realities and mysteries of life and death. It is our *temporary existence* that reminds us of the fragility of the human condition and encourages us to choose wisely - how we should co-exist and how we want to be remembered.

Growing up in the Antelope Valley, **Jake Martinez** (b. 1995, Sylmar, CA) watched homes and businesses change from inhabited and open to abandoned and closed. His photographs and drawings function as an archive to preserve the memory of these buildings and the histories they represent. He is interested in the psychology of places and its effect on those who live in them. Commercial buildings seem to change occupancy every few months, and neighbors come and go from increasingly derelict homes. Recreational lands now closed to the public or under ceaseless renovations, dried up ponds or playas, and the decayed residue of campgrounds populate Martinez' photographs. He became interested in photography while pursuing a BA in Psychology at California State University, Northridge, and completed his M.A. degree in photography at CSUN this past May. Martinez is currently based in Palmdale, CA.

Oscillating between video and film, **Matthew Nesor's** (b. 1989, Los Angeles, CA) work proposes a dialogue between engagement and interiority. Through themes such as desire, memory and place, he uses the video camera to reflect on the transitional and anticipatory moments of his everyday life. His videos are a catalog of light and sound, charged with physical and experiential energy and imbued with a generosity of being. Nesor's work illuminates the act of image-making as a dynamic, search and sense-making process that liberates memory, a constant decaying and regenerating phenomenon. Nesor reflects, "Growing up close to Los Angeles, I had an inhabited sense of living beyond or elsewhere. The hypnotic openness of space and light that I have encountered and interact with guides my work, developing an intrinsic sense of place." Nesor received his M.A. degree from California State University, Northridge, and is currently based in Los Angeles, CA.

Rory Nester (b. 1994, San Jose, CA) works primarily in ceramics. Nester reflects, "Life is dark and wicked. Environmental catastrophes, political fiascos, and social decay have all become business as usual. Desensitized to tragedy, we often have difficulties confronting looming global issues, and I'm left mystified by our ability to ignore what's right in front of us." Finding the humor in chaos, she is able to navigate the challenging times in which we live. Nester knowingly makes objects that will become her legacy, employing wry wit as a form of resistance. Her work begins by creating something that will last longer than our own ephemeral lives. This will be some evidence, for whatever version of human is on this earth in the years to come, that she used her finite period of time, aware and amused under the weight of our actions. Nester received her M.A. degree from California State University, Northridge.

Stephen Sariñana-Lampson (b. 1958, Los Angeles, California) is a Los Angeles-based multidisciplinary artist working in photography, printmaking, and video. His photographs evoke a memory of place within the quilt of Los Angeles' urban fabric. They embody subliminal narratives informed by circumstance and site, fragments of architectural detail, and the vestiges of people perceived by their absence. Sariñana-Lampson connects with the palpable presence of solitude that permeates built spaces, particularly those slated for *development*. "The rhythmic vibe of Los Angeles heavily influences how I navigate the boundaries of a viewfinder. I see my images as panoramic stills from an uncaptured cinematic tableaux where dreams are found and sometimes lost in the isolation of a relentless cityscape," says Stephen. This narrative of the city as expressed in desolate scenes played out in the built environment continues to be a recurring theme in his work. Sariñana-Lampson received his M.A. degree from California State University, Northridge.

The subject of the human condition is the core element in the work of **Christopher Taylor** (b. 1962, Van Nuys, CA). Taylor says, "Suffering can have a quiet existence. It is an important aspect of life as it contributes towards my enlightenment on the meandering path. Pain is often shared alone among others, although not voiced. One could say pain is existence." Taylor's work makes that which is internalized, external on canvas. There is a gravitational order of placement using pure, unadulterated color, soft and hard washes of charcoal, pastel, and pencil. His intention is to evoke a feeling and response that extends his vision beyond the scope of understanding. Taylor was raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania until the age of thirteen before returning to the west coast. He received his M.A degree from California State University, Northridge, and currently works and lives in Los Angeles, California.

*As part of the 23-campus CSU system, **California State University, Northridge (CSUN)**, is one of the largest universities in the nation, enrolling more than 40,000 full- and part-time students. It is a liberal arts institution that has nine colleges and more than 2,000 faculty members. The Visual Arts Graduate Programs at CSUN emphasize the experience and value of visual thinking and creative problem solving in art, as well as recognizing the concurrent importance of critical thinking, experimentation, innovation and perception. The graduate faculty is comprised of working artists, including members of the tenured/tenure-track faculty and visiting artists, writers, and critics from the Los Angeles international art community.*

***Open Mind Art Space** is a contemporary art gallery and alternative art space located in West Los Angeles. It showcases contemporary art from a diverse blend of talented emerging artists and is dedicated to facilitating a curatorial process that allows its artists to create impactful work. Founded in 2016, Open Mind's mission is to inspire and challenge the local Los Angeles community by providing a comfortable, engaging space for reflection and dialogue.*