



# TRANSCENDENT REALITY





curator: Maria Romero

zine designer: Rewon Shimray

# TRANSCENDENT REALITY

refers to a level of reality that is believed to exist beyond the physical world. It is often associated with spiritual or metaphysical concepts, and is thought to be beyond the limitations of human perception and understanding.

Artists were asked to delve into the concept of transcendent reality within the context of virtual and digital spaces. These selected works aim to address the philosophical inquiry of how our online lives fit into the wider context of a physical universe, challenging the separation between virtual and tangible reality.

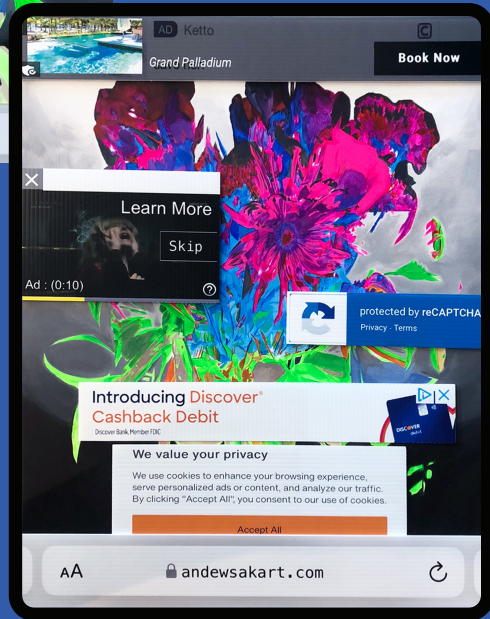
**The Gallery ATX** is a woman-powered Austin, Texas based fine art collective devoted to exhibiting original and profound works of art from a carefully curated group of artists. Our mission is to impact new audiences through creative collaborations, pop-up exhibitions, and brand partnerships. By providing a platform to display our artists' message, we connect a community of diverse creators and collectors.

Find out more at  
[www.linktr.ee/thegalleryatx](http://www.linktr.ee/thegalleryatx)





an interactive painting  
with magnetic, removable  
ads that reveal an ultra-  
saturated bouquet



ANDUEWAKART

ad BLOCKER

# in the CLOUDS

Technology  
is an  
extension  
of our  
hands and  
minds. I  
utilize it  
to elicit  
haptic  
experiences  
that create  
tension  
between the  
human body and  
the virtual world. Ultimately, the  
work highlights the nature of an  
evolving humanity, while realizing  
the limitations of integration  
that still exist.



Coding and sensors make  
this sort of interactivity  
possible.

The physical materials I  
use represent the human  
form, while  
the digital  
materials  
allude  
to our  
inner  
selves.



ANDUEWAKART

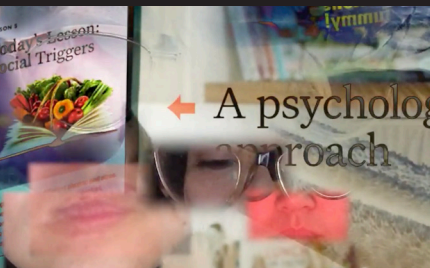






# ALGOR ITHMIC

# INSEC URITY



Transcendent reality refers to a tangible world overlaid with, and inextricable from,

a digital one. Digital existence coexists with, intersects, and impacts the physical world on a global scale, but also on an individual, bodily one. We get migraines from too much screen time. We have tangible emotional reactions to online storytelling, interactions, or even broadcasted violence. We experience pain from slouching over our devices or using our pinkies to hold our phones.



In this video collage, I am specifically investigating the physical and mental impact of targeted advertisements. It explores and represents how the brain feels when insecurities and mental illnesses are algorithmically hijacked and fed back to us as targeted ad promotions, with a specific, personal focus on eating disorders and weight loss commercials. I find that the deeper I go into the

recovery process, the more Weight Watchers, Noom, and tummy tuck advertisements I receive.

serena zam



A "transcendent reality" serves many purposes including showing you different options. If someone wants to create change within themselves, having a grasp on a transcendent reality is as necessary as it is instrumental.

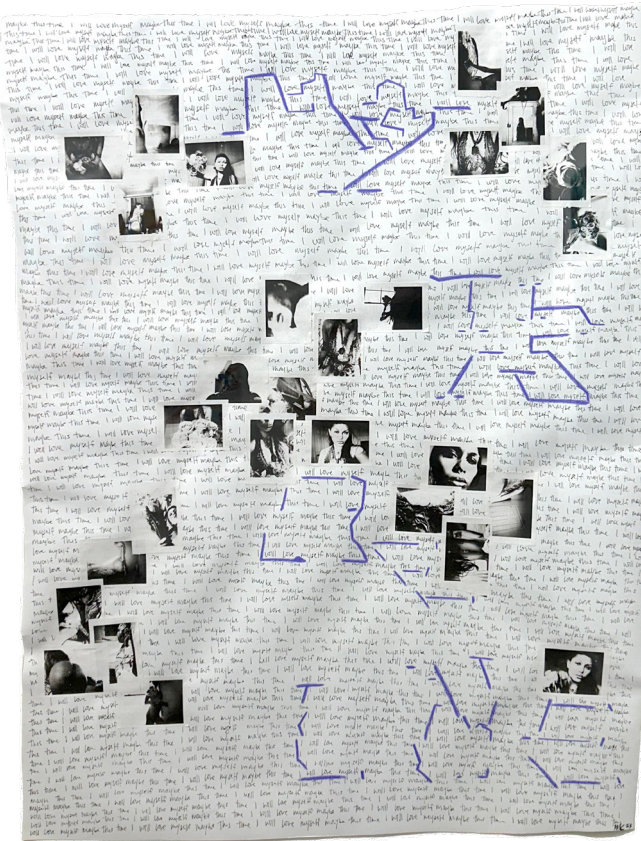
Re:wire was inspired by EMDR therapy, in which the patient examines traumatic events and implements self-compassion and bilateral stimulation to result in a perspective shift of the narrative.

Self-portraiture featured here is a practice of self-compassion, being able to see yourself as

you are.

The repeated phrase in the background reads, "maybe this time I will love myself" – a post-heartbreak sentiment. In the foreground reads "may this be love," a reference to the Jimi Hendrix song.

With the understanding that words hold power which directs manifestation, changing "maybe this" to "may this be" is a declaration of intent, claiming changed narrative which changes the direction of energy; thus, the brain is rewired.



- ms cashmere

# RE:WIRE



A close-up, high-angle shot of a person's head and shoulders as they sleep in a bed. They are covered with a white blanket. A smartphone lies on the bed next to their hand, its screen glowing brightly, casting a soft light on the surrounding fabric. A charging cable is plugged into the bottom of the phone.

# our main competitor is sleep

This work depicts the familiar but unpleasant experience of dozing off while online. Dreams, content, and reality blur into a disorienting haze. Time warps. Light blinds. Entertainment and rest cancel each other out. The world goes on posting without you – the urge to be constantly up to date clashes with the human need for sleep.

Netflix CEO Reed Hastings claimed in 2017 that the platform's biggest competitor was sleep. A basic human need should not be considered a problem to tackle in a company's business strategy – especially when their product is intended to be a source of relaxation and escapism.

Online platforms are engineered to keep us engaged against our best interest, in the hopes that we continue to pay them. Whether it is forking over money for another month of a subscription, or sticking around long enough for one more ad to be put in front of us, our attention is being molded to support megacorporations' bottom line.

kate nuelle

A person is sleeping at a desk, covered by a white blanket. A laptop is open on the desk in front of them, its screen glowing brightly. A small clock is visible on the desk next to the laptop. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source being the laptop screen.





# TAGGED

kate nuelle

Digital facial recognition and modification has become ubiquitous - filters can modify your face in real time, deepfakes can transpose your face onto someone else's body, and AI can generate new images of you. Our likenesses are warped and tracked. Corporations can apply facial recognition to surveillance footage to predict customer behavior. Police forces have used it to surveil protesters.

CV Dazzler, a makeup technique developed to evade facial recognition, inspired the makeup in this portrait. As facial recognition systems become more advanced, the measures necessary to trick them in the real world require more and more alteration to the face and body.

# TRANSPARENCY

ysabel garcia

This work grapples with the perception of traditional painting as a dying art form as the convenience and accessibility of digital art overshadows it in many ways. The mimicry of an opacity layer over my realist self-portrait is also a reflection on my personal history. When I started painting initially, I was a "digital painter" - a style of digital art that uses painterly strokes rather than smooth gradients or cel shading. The imagery of working on a painting in Photoshop is very familiar and significant to me and continues to influence me as a painter of things in the physical world.



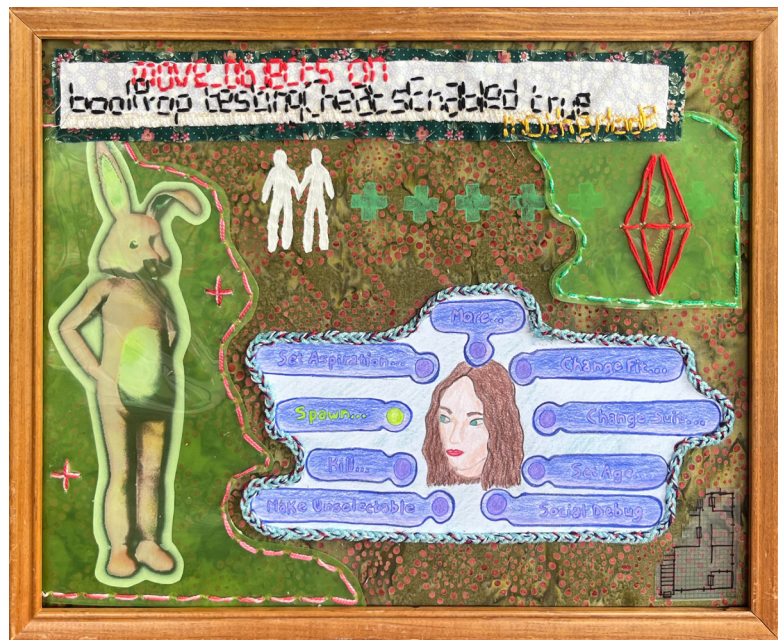


# I CAN MAKE YOUR BED ROT

TAY HALL

Growing up in the digital age, we become integrated into virtual landscapes. Sometimes, these destinations become havens for exploration and creation while also serving as escapes from the material world.

In adolescence, I logged thousands of hours playing the Sims with an affinity for the The Sims 2. I would spend all day locked in to this simulation of reality, building elaborate neighborhoods and guiding my Sims' lives to flourish while disregarding my own needs to shower, be active, and eat nutritious meals. I would use cheat codes to bypass



more realistic elements of the game and live out extravagant fantasies.

In this realm, I had ultimate control and I would wonder why interactions

in the physical world did not play out like these simulated scenarios.

I eventually grew out of these gameplay habits and thought processes, but the Sims interface and lore still feels deeply familiar — like an old friend.

This piece is a reflection on this pastime of "playing God" while allowing my earthly needs to deteriorate. Elements include specific references such as cheat codes embroidered into a text box, a hand-drawn social pie menu, and the social bunny (a creature that would appear when a Sim's social needs were suffering).



Kristine Fernandez

I interpreted *Transcendent Reality* as the interaction and collision of the tangible, conscious world with the subconscious, more abstract layers — whether that is our internal processes or perhaps something more universal.

This painting is a self-portrait that captures the shift that I have felt in how I view and perceive my "self" and how the internal "self" gets translated to the outer "self" that interacts in the real world.

Masking plays a role in how I process these more abstract parts of myself into the real world, whether it's in person (represented by the mask) or online (represented by the phone), but so does mindfulness as represented by the meditative pose and elements of Buddha stylistically.



Transcendent reality sometimes implies a religious connotation that mystifies perception and process as something on a separate plane, instead of opening doors to explore reality as something that is */here and now/*.

That being said, even if we are all physical and there is no separation between the body and mind, the limits to our perception and our taught biases do create a constant push and pull of discerning what is true and real.

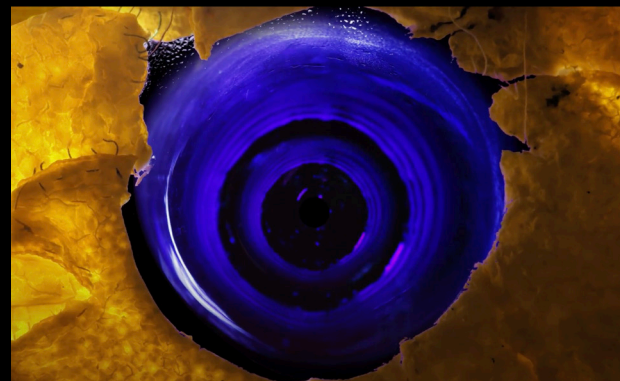
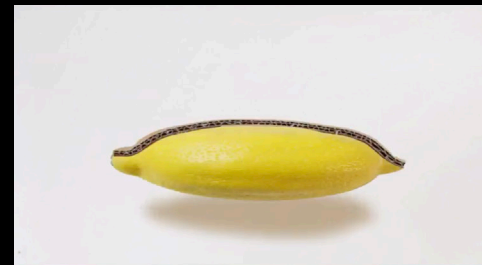
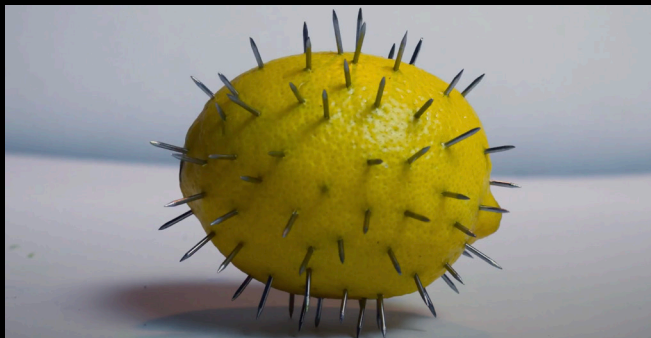


How much credence do you lend the feeling of a bad energy?

Or how do you grok an inter-subjective truth that isn't a constantly moving target?

# a problem

sara aleyce  
roma



The ambiguity of perception is the thesis of my piece *A Problem* and also how it relates to the theme *Transcendent Reality*.

*A Problem* explores the material constraint of: **Lemon** as an experiment on dissecting the relationship between a subject and their ability to identify a problem.





*Vaya Con Diosa*  
translates to "Go With  
Goddess." This work was  
created with the intent  
of allowing the universe  
to burn down old  
thoughts, feelings, and  
memories that hold me  
back from my blessings.  
When all roads have been  
broken, there is no  
choice but to jump into  
a new reality.

cyn Resendiz

# VAYA CON DIOSA



Often I would find myself stuck in my mind while seeking companionship. The door is open but I am seated, just waiting to take that first step into the outer world. The hands sign for more in the background because I know there is more than what I have limited myself to in this room.

cyn Resendiz

# visualizer.



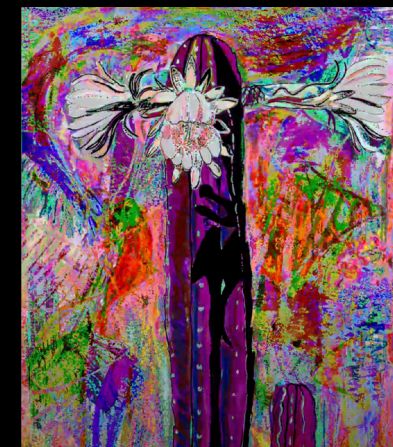
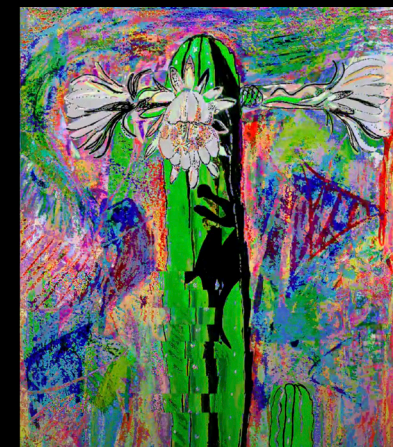
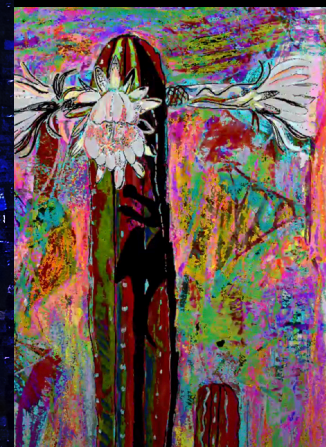
Sometimes it feels like technology and pixels have become as ubiquitous as the air around us and as far out as space. If it goes on long enough, it seems as though we won't be able to see the world around us separately from them anymore.

galaxy static

erin power

# holy san pedro

damino



In modern society, social media constantly portrays only the "good" aspects of life while it's not considered acceptable to share the darker and melancholy aspects of life. My artwork depicts my struggle with anxiety

and depression, and how I am healing through plant medicine use. We are dealing with huge political conflicts and environmental issues that we just have to accept with no say most of the time. It's difficult to keep positive

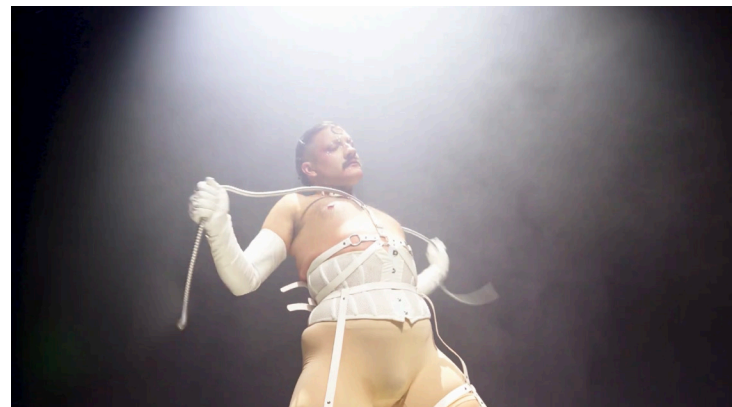
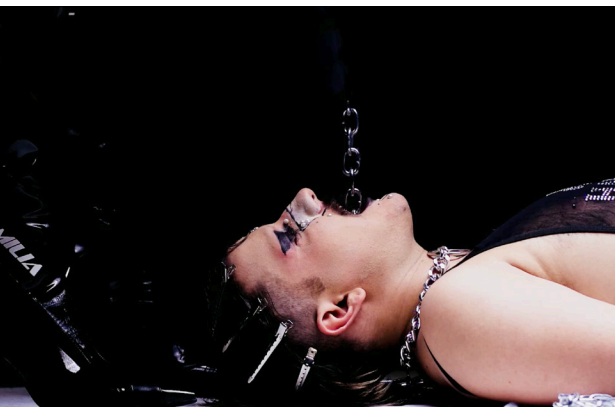
all the time, and so we must find an outlet to transmute this pain. These portraits capture how it feels to process those difficult moments. It's breaking through the veil of the metaverse to share these concepts in a captivating form.





# TECH.NOLOGY

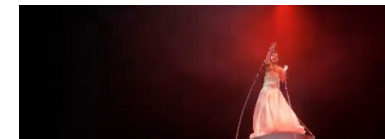
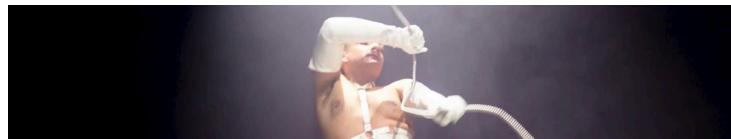
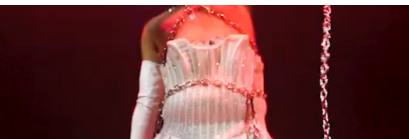
TURITO



"Transcendent reality" is the idea of a reality that exists outside of the physical world.

Often as queer people, we create alternate realities through art, gaming, music, etc. where the stigmas, structure and binaries of the physical world don't exist.

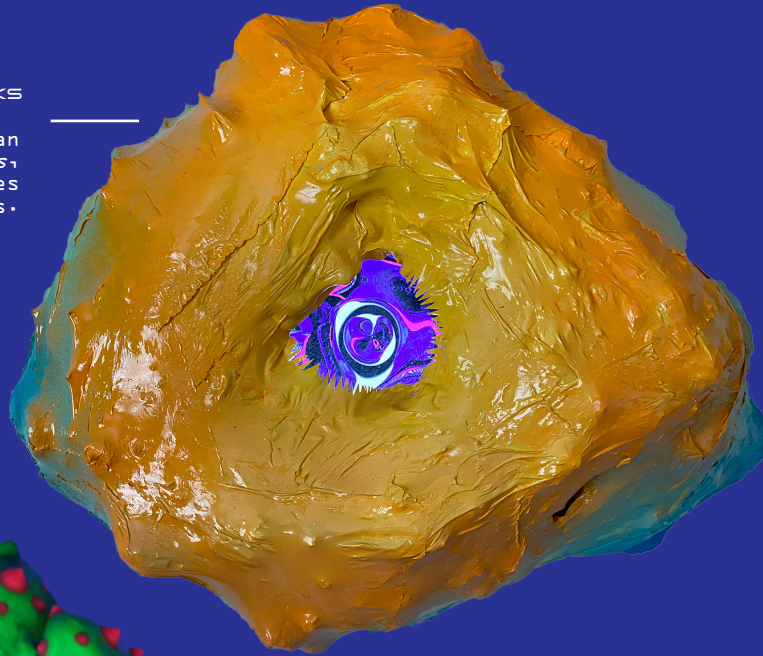
In *TECH.NOLOGY*, Turito embodies Y2K, a genderless cyborg that investigates our relationship to fetish, technology, and augmented reality, and imagines an accelerated future where these are embedded within the human experience.





## NEXUS by sydney parks

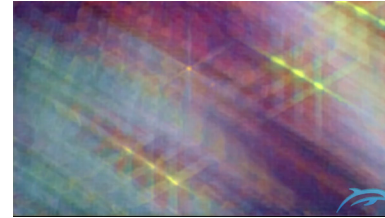
Nexus is a process-based piece. For me, it's an interplanetary geographic formation. Titled *Nexus*, this piece converges in the center and mutates into different shapes.



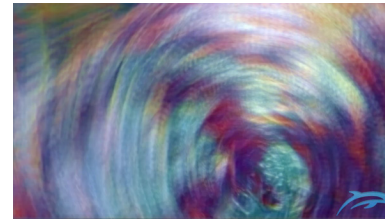
## Alien specimen #5

by victoria morales walters

By presenting these otherworldly anomalies to the public, they have transcended reality and broken the norms of every day society by existing. But in addition, they also provide a fun and adventurous look into the idea of unexplored planets, portal travel, unknown creatures yet to be discovered as a form of childlike escapism from the real world.



coalescence is a voyage into the symphony of interconnectivity – a dance of formation where disparate elements merge to forge something novel and profound. This piece is an ode to the harmonious chaos that defines our existence, an acknowledgment of the quiet stillness within life's tumultuous storms. It's a recognition of the threads that weave the tapestry of the universe, binding us to each other and the greater cosmos.



Radiance both permeates and transcends our reality. This video painting encapsulates the convergence of the natural world's inherent beauty with the expansive potential of digital expression, each frame a meditation on the dynamic dance of life's energies.



L. dolphin brown



Murmuration is where the singular becomes plural, reflecting the collective movement that shapes our reality. In this video painting, I explore the mesmerizing phenomenon of murmurations, where individual entities align to create a larger, more complex system, much like the intricate dance of starlings in the sky.





# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

## serena zam

she/her

Pages # 1 (Front Cover - *Memorscape 3*), 6, 28 (Back Cover - *Memorscape 2*)  
IG: @ [serenamakethings](#)  
[serenazam.com](#)

Serena Zam is an artist living and making in Austin, Texas. Her work has been featured in shows throughout the city and state, most recently at The Museum of Human Achievement, East Austin Studio Tours, OFC Gallery, The Contemporary Austin - Laguna Gloria, Almost Real Things HQ, and The Lockh(ART) House (Lockhart, TX). Her work is influenced by her technological dread and is focused on how technology and internet culture have altered people and their rituals. She has a background in Computer Science and often blends digital mediums with more traditional techniques, like oil painting, weaving, printmaking, and collage. She uses her practice to abstractly contemplate the impact and ethics of the devices, algorithms, and machines that saturate modern life. She is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin.



## ANDEWSAK art

he/him

Pages # 2 (Inside Cover - *Garden of E-dom*), 4  
IG: @ [andewsak](#)  
[andewsakart.com](#)

ANDEWSAK is located in Leander, Texas, originally from Oakland, California, and is of both Mexican and Japanese descent. He started off as a digital artist in 2017, and now primarily explores oil and acrylic mediums. ANDEWSAK explores themes of nature and technology through the dark complexities of the mind. Subjecting himself to the many pitfalls of modern day living, he leaves behind images of the shadow via oil, acrylic and digital media.



## sydney parks

she/her

Pages # 5, 22  
IG: @ [apartoftheproblem](#)  
[sydneyparks.org](#)

Sydney Parks is an interdisciplinary artist who works at the intersection of virtual and physical space. Holding a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Houston, her career spans exhibitions, teaching and public art. Sydney teaches as an Assistant Professor of Practice at the University of Texas in Austin for the Arts & Entertainment department. She has previously taught as a Lecturer for UT's Design department, and was a Teaching Fellow in painting, drawing, and virtual reality art at the University of Houston. Sydney's interest in community engagement led her to teach Prison Drawing to male inmates in the Huntsville Holliday Unit. Sydney's artwork has been included in institutions like the Blaffer Art Museum and Lawndale Arts Center, with publications including HCE Review Volume II Issue I in Dublin, Ireland, and R2: The Rice Review 2019 Issue in Houston, Texas. She lives and works in Austin, Texas.



## MS cashmere

she/her

Page # 7  
IG: @ [givemecashmere](#)

Ms Cashmere is an Austin-based artist from San Jose, California working with many forms of mixed media including collage, textile, songwriting and production, and collaboration through community archival work. Mixed media presents a tangible parallel to reflect an array of mixed lived experiences including identity and spirituality. Her work centers themes of love, healing, and transcendence and is rooted in the belief that every individual can heal the world through first healing themselves and extending vulnerability to empower others.



## Ysabel Garcia

she/her

Page # 11  
TikTok + IG: @ [ysabelgarciaart](#)  
[ysabelngarcia.com](#)

Ysabel Garcia is an up-and-coming multimedia painter currently residing in San Marcos Texas. Her work brings together a love for traditional painting techniques with an appreciation for unconventional colors, invented imagery, and lost subjects. Often in her work, she examines the relationship between beauty and discomfort.

## Kristine Fernandez

she/her

Page # 13  
IG: @ [24hrpizzadotcom](#)  
[kristinefernandez.com](#)

Kristine is a Filipina American artist located in Austin. Her work has been featured at the Museum of Human Achievement. Kristine's work centers around trying to break down abstract concepts like anxiety or AAPI identity by creating them as tangible experiences, whether it's a creative coding project or a painting.



## kate nuelle

she/they

Pages # 8, 9, 10  
IG: @ [kate-nuelle](#)  
[katenuelle.com](#)

Kate Nuelle is an artist born, raised, and based in Austin, TX. Their current body of work investigates the impact that dramatic accelerations in technology have had on socialization, privacy, and daily life. They are a graphic designer by day, and express themself through film and digital photography, and illustration. Their work has been published in High Noon, Blisters Mag, Verses, and other independent publications.

## Tay Hall

they/she

Page # 12  
IG: @ [t4yh411](#)  
[tayhallstudio.com](#)

Tay Hall is a photography and multimedia artist based in Austin, Texas. Their relationship with the arts began in the theater and has since covered a range of performing and visual art mediums. Recently, they have been exploring stereoscopic photography as well as crafting with mixed materials, and their work has centered themes of place-based attachments, storytelling and nostalgic reflections. They began showing work in local shows in 2023, and they continue to seek organic intersections of their mediums and new inspirations.



## sara aleyce roma

she/they

Page # 14, 15  
IG: @ [chromaglyphs](#)  
[sara-roma.com/art/works](#)

Sara Aleyce Roma (b. 1995) is an Austin, Texas based new media artist who utilizes stop-motion, web animation, free association writing, live video mixing, interactive installation, interview and performance. Taking a situationist approach to mediums, they utilize all of these methods to explore thought around eco-philosophy, scale, perception, media history, poetry, ritual, and kitsch. Raised by the internet in Nebraska, they learned HTML on Neopets and animation from YouTube before formally studying Motion Media at SCAD, the Savannah College of Art and Design. They have continuously interacted with community through various collectives as a contributor or organizer - most recently organizing shows through Favored Channels and coordinating art theory discussions with Concept Animals.





## CYN Resendiz

they/them

Page # 16, 17  
IG: @ ohohdedart  
[cynthianesendiz15.wixsite.com/website](http://cynthianesendiz15.wixsite.com/website)

Cyn Resendiz grew up in Austin, Texas. They graduated from Texas State University in 2022 with a BFA in Studio Art. **Their focused work is in screen printing.** and have showed work in many creative institutions, such as the "2022 Unfinished: New Prints 2022 / Winter", IPCNY, New York, NY, and the "Edition Variables 2022: New Austin Printmakers Juried Student Show", Flatbed Press, Austin, TX, amongst other exhibitions. In 2022, their work was published in "The Hand: The Magazine for Reproduction-Based Art" and they participated in a group residency at Mass Gallery. During their transition from undergrad to the workforce, Resendiz has taken their love for screen printing and found employment in places such as Kong Screenprinting and Design to my current employment at Industry Print Shop in the flatstock department.



## ERIN POWER

she/her

Page # 18  
IG: @ erinkpower

Erin Power moved to Austin from San Antonio, TX at the end of 2019, and began painting for commissions and exhibit submissions in much of her spare time in 2020. She has been accepted into six group exhibits, including a juried show in Round Rock's Downtowner Gallery where she placed second and was shown on We Are Austin.

## Damino

they/them

Page # 19  
IG: @ \_damino  
[depvisualart.com/visualart](http://depvisualart.com/visualart)

Damino is a visual artist, musician, activist, and holistic wellness practitioner who lives and works in ATX. They would consider themselves an interdisciplinary artist who enjoys blending different practices together. **They make art about themes that are relevant to their experience as a queer, non-binary, Latinx, first generation American.** Damino graduated from Queens College in New York with a B.A in Visual Arts and minor in Anthropology. They have displayed their work in various galleries including the Texas State Galleries, Masur Gallery, Studio San Martian, San Marcos Art Center, and other coffee shops in Texas and New York. They participated in the Vermont Studio Art Residency in 2022 and have created large scale murals in San Marcos and Austin.



## Turito

they/them

Page # 20, 21  
IG: @ turitomusic  
[ra.co/dj/turito](http://ra.co/dj/turito)

Turito is a musician, DJ, and nightlife artist in Austin, Texas whose work moves freely through the realms of club theatre, music, and multimedia performance art. **Their work explores themes of queer stigma, sexual liberation, technology and "the online" through the sounds of hard-dark rave beats and soft soundscapes with Latin and pop punk influences.**

In the past years, Turito has been nominated for Best DJ of Austin by The Austin Chronicle and previously has received three Best of Austin Awards for their work in music and nightlife. In 2018, Turito was presented as Austin's Future of queer nightlife by The Austin Chronicle and was the cover of their PRIDE issue.



## victoria morales walter

she/her

Page # 22  
IG: @ darling\_dame  
[moralesvictoria23k.wixsite.com/victoria-morales-wal](http://moralesvictoria23k.wixsite.com/victoria-morales-wal)

In 2020, I graduated from my hometown of Corpus Christi at Texas A&M University-C.C. with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Studio Art with a minor in Art History. I then moved to Irving, TX on a full ride scholarship to go to the University of Dallas to pursue my Master of Fine Arts degree in Sculpture. I have presented two solo exhibitions: *Worlds Collide* and *Synesthesia*. I have also enjoyed teaching as the Fall 2023 drawing one adjunct professor as well as advising undergraduates in sculpture. My goals would include the opportunity to become a full-time sculptor professor and continue to create immersive-based installations. With each new artwork I create, I strive to further develop my sculptural skills and explore escapism through beautification and color to create unforgettable experiences.



## L. Dolphin Brown

she/her

Page # 23  
IG: @ DolphinBrownArt  
[DolphinBrown.Art](http://DolphinBrown.Art)

Known for her fascinating video installations, her art has been celebrated worldwide, from the screens of Times Square in New York City to La Pedrera-Casa Mila in Barcelona, Spain, to galleries in Milan, The Canary Islands, and across the United States.

Her academic and artistic pursuits led her to the Savannah College of Art and Design. It was there, under the mentorship of the esteemed video artist Dara Birnbaum, that she expanded her horizons, establishing the college's first multi-channel installation. At the heart of Dolphin's work is her artistic philosophy and commitment to pushing creative boundaries and encouraging others to be authentic in their artistic pursuits.

Her art took a profound turn after a life-threatening illness. Finding solace amidst the fear left behind from her devastating illness, Dolphin turned toward art to transcend that fear. **Her creations took on the form of a portal, offering viewers a new way to see and think about life and the present moment. Her work is a deep dive into peace and consciousness.**



## Maria Romero

she/her

Role: **Curator**

Maria Romero (she/her) is a curator, community builder, musician, and seasoned Business Development professional. Originally from Medellin, Colombia, she now calls Austin, Texas home. She founded The Gallery ATX, a local arts non-profit, and serves as its Executive Director. Additionally, she co-founded Mujer Manifesto Zine, a feminist independent publication. Maria also contributes to the Austin creative community as a guitarist/vocalist for the local band CorMae and has been published in Glaze Zine for her creative writing.



## REWON shimray

she/her

Role: **Zine Designer**  
IG + TikTok: @ artbyrewon  
[rewonshimray.com](http://rewonshimray.com)

Rewon Shimray is a multimedia creative raised and based in Austin, Texas. Graphic designer by day and painter by night, her work often relates to being a queer woman of color, a daughter of immigrants, and an evolving human. **The images that emerge culminate the grief, interpersonal interactions, religious trauma, and racialized experiences that have shaped her reality.** All together, Rewon's creative work reveals the world she has been raised, socialized, and now unlearning to see. She earned a bachelor's degree from Baylor University, studying journalism, religion, and studio art. Rewon has exhibited work across Austin galleries, including RichesArt, Cloud Tree Gallery, and ContraCommon. She is passionate about building communities through art, investing in the Austin art scene as the Director of Artistic Programs for The Gallery ATX and editor of Mujer Manifesto Zine.





THE  
GALLERY