

Walter Elwood Contemporary

100 Church Street, Amsterdam, New York 12010

Walter Elwood Contemporary is thrilled to announce our grand opening and inaugural exhibition with Theresa McTague and Natalie Ochoa. *Head First* opens July 10th, 6-8pm, and will run until October 10th. We are also very excited to announce the opening of the Capital Region's only zine store. Brooklyn-based artist Lauren Clay has created a permanent installation for our zines to live in.

Lauren used digitally printed wallpaper to transform the final room of the gallery into a de Chirico-esque landscape, warping and manipulating the otherwise flat walls. The wallpaper is made by collaging hand-marbled paper first, then scanning and enlarging the collages, and lastly printing onto vinyl. The dramatic scale shift creates a trompe-l'oeil effect and the walls become sculpted, soft, and textured. Clay incorporated shelves and a table into the design specifically for this installation to create a functional space for displaying zines and artist books.

Our first stocking of the store includes zines by Vanessa Berry from Sydney, Joseph Carlough from Philadelphia, Katie Haegele from Philadelphia, Jason Heuer from Rockaway Beach, Spencer Moody from Hawaii, Half Letter Press from Chicago, Tara Strongosky from Brooklyn, and Martijn in 't Veld from Berlin. More zines from more artists will be released with each new exhibition.

Albany-based artist Theresa McTague uses gouache and watercolors in a vibrant palette to re-examine mundane to complex interactions, feelings, and interiors through her vivid thoughts and dreams. A range of dysfunctional characters from animal to human tell these stories where the line between fact and fiction is up to the viewer. Theresa places these distorted inhabitants within deconstructed cityscapes to generate an unsettling and surreal visual experience.

Brooklyn artist Natalie Ochoa uses embroidery as a tool for drawing. Influenced by her Colombian lineage where artisanal work in fiber is commonplace, Natalie expands the language of embroidery through her sculptures and wall-based works. Her latest body of work addresses themes of thought patterns, love, repressed feelings, and childhood memories and uses familiar imagery to seduce and then lead the viewer into uncharted territory.

"When I was a child I used to go to a lot of water parks. What stood out to me the most was always being told to go down the slides feet first. I was always curious what would happen if I went head first." - Natalie Ochoa

Natalie Ochoa received her BFA from the School of Visual Arts in 2016 and has been in numerous group exhibitions. We are honored to present Natalie's second solo exhibition coming off the heels of her first at Cat Box Contemporary of Queens in 2020.

Theresa McTague received her BFA from Purchase College in 2013 and her MFA from SUNY Albany in 2017. She has been in numerous group shows and we are also delighted to present her second solo exhibition.

Walter Elwood Contemporary is a wing inside of the Walter Elwood Museum, started by Walter in 1939. For more information check our website: walterelwoodcontemporary.com, follow our Instagram: [@walter.elwood.contemporary](https://www.instagram.com/walter.elwood.contemporary), or contact Brent Birnbaum at: 646-736-9867 or brent@walterelwoodcontemporary.com