

Fresh Focus: Small Works Exhibition of Recent Bay Area MFA Artists: Sara Dykstra, Jordan Holms, Haley Jensen, David Mohr, Cate Nelson, Rachele Reichert, JoAnna Ruckman, Lauren Szabo.

December 9, 2019 through Feb 23, 2020
SFMOMA Artists Gallery, 2 Marina Blvd. Building A, San Francisco CA 94123

The SFMOMA Artists Gallery is pleased to present *Fresh Focus*, a group exhibit of small-sized artworks by eight recent alumni and current students of the Master of Fine Arts degree programs in the San Francisco Bay Area. With disparate mediums, and eight individual artistic practice on view, the exhibit reveals how postgraduate, MFA studio programs might continue to be applied to, and inspire the wide array of the unique practices present in one academic year on to the next.

Fresh Focus reveals the individuality inherent in local contemporary art through the lens of emerging artists in the immediate region; current graduate artists working in similar mediums who reinterpret and personalize through a fresh focus into multiple possible different approaches and applications. Additionally, postgraduate alumni colleagues working in disparate practices interpret and apply similar instruction curriculum with a fresh focus according to their individual interests. While working in similar mediums, Sara Dykstra and Jordan Holms' abstracted paintings come from very different points of exploration and inquiry: from sculpture, architecture, to the paint medium itself. Cate Nelson and JoAnna Ruckman, graduates of San Francisco Art Institute, have processed instruction within the same program according to their own experiences, concentrations, and skills. Cate Nelson's psychologically-charged paintings of home interiors stand in stark juxtaposition to fellow San Francisco Art Institute MFA alumnus JoAnna Ruckman's politically-laden hair sculptures. Painter David Mohr and sculptor Rachele Reichert, both graduates of Mills College within a year of each other, show the results of instruction filtered through the two individual artists' interests and concerns: Mohr with color and

memory, and technology and the environment for Reichert. This is similarly true for Lauren Szabo and Haley Jensen. Both are interested in themes surrounding the environment, nature, and human's relationship to it. Szabo's quietly profound realist paintings remain in stark contrast to Jensen's colorful and lively installations and three-dimensional works.

Exhibition-Related Events

- Reception with the Artists: December 11, 2019 6-8pm
Create your own limited-edition artist-designed tote at our screen printing station!
- Exhibition Meet and Greet: January 15th, 2020 4-9pm
On your way to the Fog Design+Art Preview Gala, stop in to view Fresh Focus. Enjoy light refreshments and meet the exhibiting artists.

During the month of December, SFMOMA members receive 15% off small artwork purchases (sized under 24x24 inches or equivalent.) Please note this discount does not apply to artwork rental fees and cannot be combined with a rental credit.

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About the SFMOMA Artists Gallery

A source for local art for more than forty years, The SFMOMA Artists Gallery presents the work of new and established artists, representing a diverse range of art practices. Proceeds benefit the participating artists, the Artists Gallery, and SFMOMA's exhibitions and programs.

Instagram: [@sfmomaartistsgallery](https://www.instagram.com/sfmomaartistsgallery)

General info: <https://www.sfmoma.org/artists-gallery/>

Event page: <https://www.sfmoma.org/artists-gallery/exhibitions-events/>

Catalogue: <https://artistsgallerycatalogue.sfmoma.org/artworks/?sort=newest>