

Volume 3, 2016-2017

SHS

SENIOR HONORS STUDIO
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NYU CC

Introduction

In the academic arena it's very popular to throw around the word interdisciplinary. I know. I just visited 14 colleges this past year with my daughter. It's a trending buzz-word so overused it has become meaningless. Flying in the face of this, the Senior Honors Studio of the NYU Steinhardt BFA Program (SHS) serves as nexus for a vibrant, successful and very real inter-disciplinary project bringing together two NYU schools, the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development and the venerable Institute of Fine Arts – producer of many of the world's leading art historians, museum directors, and curators. At this intersection, several programs come into the mix: the outstanding BFA program and the acclaimed 80WSE Gallery – both thriving in the Department of Art and Art Professions – as well as the Institute of Fine Arts PhD and Masters programs harboring a range of focus from contemporary to historical art. All these participants coalesce together as the *New York University Curatorial Collaboration* known as NYUCC.

Grown out of the desire to bridge the gap between theory and practice – a shared sentiment between the aspiring curators and young artists both – the NYUCC's formation created a rare platform for students to engage in close discourse across degree levels. Over the past three years uncommon opportunities have evolved for the students involved: Curators become privy to the inception and production of new art, while art students gain experience working with a curator, something not feasibly taught in school. The fruits of their labors are then showcased in the renowned 80WSE Gallery. The practitioners exhibit their artwork, and the theoreticians organize the shows and write texts to accompany them. It is rare that a BFA student leave

their undergraduate studies with a text written on their work by a curator, and equally rare for a graduate student to be published while still in school. This thriving interdisciplinary project between SHS and NYUCC is undoubtedly THE characteristic that sets the Steinhardt BFA experience apart from the vast array of other American schools of art and reflects the benefit of a university setting, as opposed to a conventional art school.

As director of the BFA program I would like to thank all seniors for their work over the last four years. Our program is ambitious, and it's exhilarating to see students evolve over their tenure. I am also extremely proud of how vocal and opinionated seniors are. As a direct result of their comments the NYUCC engagement has expanded to include more opportunity for more students. As of this year, all seniors now engage with IFA students by way of intensive one-on-one meetings in the context of their thesis exhibitions. Walking a curator through a show is another professional exercise that is critical for artists to experience, yet nearly impossible to offer in an academic setting.

This vital interdisciplinary work would not be possible without the vision and undying enthusiasm of our Department Chair, Jesse Bransford, and Senior Studio Program Coordinator, Ian Cooper, as well as NYUCC Coordinators, Ksenia Soboleva and Madeline Turner. For the continued support of 80WSE many thanks to Director and Curator, Nicola Lees and her team. Special thanks to our home team: Tammy Lee Brown, Ken Castronuovo, Lonnie Woods III, and to the numerous others who have given time and energy to this project, thank you.

Marlene McCarty
Clinical Associate Professor
BFA Program Director
Department of Art and Art Professions
New York University

11:30 Playdate



Olivia Andrews
A House-shaped Corner, 2016
Oil on canvas
22 x 24 inches



Ila Krishnamoorthy
Streaming, Gliding, Muscles Back, 2016
Wood, foam, rope, steel,
wheels, cotton fabric
Dimensions variable

It's 8:00. She looks at the ceiling. She's close to it because of the bunk bed. The sheets are scratchy, but they smell like laundry detergent. Or maybe shampoo. Her eyes move from the ceiling to the wall. The pattern in the wallpaper reminds her that she's home. She thinks about that feeling you sometimes get when you aren't quite sure where you are. She didn't remember for a second. It's unsettling, but also kind of nice.

It's 9:30. She looks at a bagel waiting to be eaten. "You'll get fat," she tells herself. Mom used to say that. It didn't used to bother her. She picks it up. "Just one bite." She got out two knives, one for the cream cheese, one for the pickle. Mom always did it like that. You never let its whiteness mingle. She puts away the second knife. It's 10:00. She looks at the knife, covered in brown-crumby cream cheese, picks it up, and dunks it in the jar of pickle, relishing the weird satisfaction. But there's something else there too.

It's 10:30. She looks at herself in the mirror. "You have grandma's eyes. And ears. Or maybe mom's." She combs her hair and thinks of what to wear today. "Never wear holey underwear." Grandma used to say that. She knows she wasn't really talking about underwear. It's 11:00. She sits down and pulls a blue striped sock onto her left foot. Her right foot gets a solid red one. The matching doesn't matter as long as they aren't cold.

She looks at her watch. She doesn't know when she became so old. "Your playdate's at 11:30!" her mom says. But that was a long time ago. It's 11:25. She walks to the door and knocks. She answers the door. "It's 11:29," she says, "Can you play?" She leaves the door open. She goes with her. They go together. It's 11:30.

Ila Krishnamoorthy and Olivia Andrews play together in creative space, presenting works that explore the strange liberation-meets-nostalgia that they grapple with as they move further away from youth. Using transformed objects like combs woven with thread, containers filled with cement, or preserved foods, Ila's sculptures examine facets of childhood and her relationship with her own identity and investigate the impact of "things" in the formation of the self.

Olivia captures objects, spaces, and moments from childhood in her paintings and prose. Her images and words explore childhood memories – salt water and wet sand, the color of a horizon or wall, and repeated family stories – while simultaneously calling attention to the nostalgic distance created between now and then as one ages.

11:30 playdate is about things remembered and things forgotten. It's about being a child and feeling adult. It's about being an adult and feeling like a child. It's about relationships formed with the objects that make us. It's about collecting memories through phrases, movement, and images. It's about the passage of time and the moments that create our timeline. Ila and Olivia's works respond to one another both formally and conceptually, creating a dialogue that invites the viewer to knock on the door and ask, "Can you play?"

80WSE

Senior Honors Studio

February 7 — March 11, 2017

Gallery One

80 Washington Square East
New York, NY 10003

Senior Honors Studio 2016/17 chronicles a series of five, week-long exhibitions specifically conceived of by pairs of BFA candidate Studio Art majors from the New York University Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development's Department of Art & Art Professions working closely with a curatorial Masters/PhD candidate from New York University's Institute of Fine Arts under the dual auspices of the student-organized NYU Curatorial Collaborative and the Senior Honors Studio program.

Organizers

Tammy Lee Brown - Director, Planning & Communications
Ian Cooper - Senior Studio Program Coordinator
Ksenia M. Soboleva & Madeline Murphy Turner -
NYU Curatorial Collaborative Coordinator

Nicola Lees - Director, 80WSE Gallery
Ben Hatcher - Exhibitions Coordinator, 80WSE Gallery
Hugh O'Rourke - Gallery Manager, 80WSE Gallery
Pete Valenti - Exhibition Technician
Lilli Rose Biltucci, Olivia Chou, Catalina Granados,
Anika Larsen, Jongho Lee - Exhibition Assistants

Jenny Noguchi - Publication Designer
Maral Babai - Copy Editor
Jason Varone - Web & Electronic Media Manager

Artists

Olivia Andrews, Iana Bilor-Wesly, Jóa, Ila Krishnamoorthy, Anna Marchisello, Daniel Mock, Phoebe Louise Randall, Dylan Riley, Kiyomi Taylor, Emily Wang

Curators

Julia Bozer, Megan DiNoia, Regina Harsanyi, Eva Jensen, Haley Pierce

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