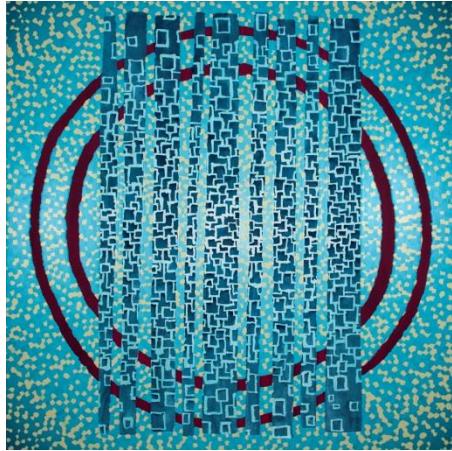


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 19, 2017



Gallery221@HCC announces two new exhibitions

Laine Nixon: Becoming Unfinished
May 15 – June 29, 2017

Caitlin Albritton: Strips
May 15 – September 1, 2017

TAMPA, FL – Gallery 221 @Hillsborough Community College, Dale Mabry Campus, is pleased to announce its upcoming exhibition, *Laine Nixon, May 15 – June 29, 2017*. An **exhibition reception and talk are planned for Thursday, May 18, 2017, 5-7PM.**

Viewing the artwork of Laine Nixon can be a transcendental experience. Nixon uses acrylic paint, watercolor and gouache on canvas or paper, to produce large, colorful abstract paintings. Her deft hand helps to create the illusion of three-dimensional objects protruding from a flat surface that challenge the viewer's perception and alter the senses all the while providing a pleasing aesthetic experience. The artist has stated, "Seeking to understand and recreate the combined experience of optical beauty and physical well-being, I develop paintings that embody the intersection between visual perception and the physical object – or between thought and thing – hoping that if I locate this space I might be afforded insight into the power of such experiences."

Laine Nixon is a visual artist based in Sarasota, Florida. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting from the University of South Florida, Tampa, and a Bachelor of Science in mathematics from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Her work has been shown at Ringling Underground, Selby Gallery, and [blank] slate gallery, among other spaces. In 2015, Nixon's work was selected for Studio Visit Magazine, Vol 29, and was acquired by RBC Wealth Management. Development of her work has been supported by a residency at The Longboat Key Center for the Arts and a Creative Capital Foundation Professional Development Program funded by the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs. Most recently, she was awarded the 2016/2017 John Ringling Towers Fund individual artist grant which includes a residency at the Hermitage Artist Retreat.

Also opening on May 15th, in the alternative third-floor space at Gallery 221, is an exhibition of works by Caitlin Albritton titled *Strips*. Starting with traditionally flat slabs of paint (either acrylic or oil) spread on large palettes, Albritton scrapes and peels the color from the confines of a flat surface to create three-dimensional, tactile geological sculptures. Roughly manipulating the blobs, wrinkles, ribbons, chunks, goops, layers, and rich textures, she shuffles these singular pieces into a larger composition that protrudes from the surface. By capturing a moment in textural excitement, her work compels the viewer to touch, to further their visual experience other than how we typically view works through computer or phone screens.

Caitlin Albritton is a Tampa-based artist. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting with a minor in ceramics from Savannah College of Art and Design. She is currently pursuing a Master of Fine Arts at the Maryland Institute College of Art. Her work has been exhibited throughout the southern United States and will be included in "Skyway: A Contemporary Collaboration," Museum of Fine Arts, St. Pete, Florida in June 2017.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

All programs are free and open to the public.

Gallery Reception: Thursday, May 18, 2017, 5 -7 p.m.

Image Above: Laine Nixon, *Zuhanden 18*, 2016, Acrylic and watercolor on canvas, 48" x 48"; Caitlin Albritton, *Yellow Peek/White Sheet*, 2015, Oil on canvas, 10" x 10"

Exhibition Title: Laine Nixon: Becoming Unfinished; Caitlin Albritton: Strips

Exhibition Dates: May 15 – June 29, 2017; May 15 – September 1, 2017

Location: Gallery 221@HCC, 2nd floor library, Learning Resources Center, Dale Mabry Campus, 4001 W. Tampa Bay Blvd., Tampa 33614

Gallery Summer Hours: Monday – Wednesday 9a.m. – 4p.m.; Thursday 9a.m. – 7p.m.

Media Contact: Patricia Sriram | psriram@hccfl.edu | 813-253-7386

Website: www.hccfl.edu/gallery221

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