

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | SCAVENGERS!

Scavengers!

Loft Gallery | 401 S. Mesa Street, San Pedro, CA 90731 | (310) 831-5757

September 5 – October 26, 2019

Opening reception: September 15, 2019 | 2 – 6 pm

A group exhibition featuring 5 contemporary artists working within the realms of the repurposed, creating immersive, visually arresting works of sculpture both freestanding and for the wall, that directly address the future of our world in the face of mass materialism. To repurpose is to give second life to an object or collection of objects and these women do so through strikingly different modes. The common thread is dedication to the quality and the meticulous elevation of “common” materials in such a way that permanently lashes narrative to craft. The attention level to construction is so high that one almost loses sight of the origins of the materials. Such is the magic and the playful call of “Scavengers!” an irony inherent in the work itself, which has been repurposed to a higher calling.

TRACEY WEISS // traceyweissart.com

Tracey Weiss creates deeply process-driven works out of recycled plastics and other cast-off materials like slide negatives, water jugs and metal clippings. Her sculptures through sheer will and artistic vision turn out as manifestations of nature, larger than life representations of plant-like forms or microbiological creatures. There is an elegance to the work, art nouveau forms asking us to consider a world “post plastic.”

HILARY NORCLIFFE // hilarynorcliffe.com

Hilary Norcliffe has whimsy and wit down to a science, combining an ability to render with an interest in world-building and the interactive nature of music and found objects. Like early cave paintings, Norcliffe’s illustrations are etched across found and common surfaces, asking the viewer to see worth in every little thing. The unpretentiousness is highly deliberate and very much an invitation to touch, to play and to collaborate.

JENNIFER GUNLOCK // jennifergunlock.com

A tree, a tree house, a rocket to the moon. The organic and inorganic merge perfectly in Jennifer Gunlock’s surreal structural renderings that speak to the race between man and nature, one seeking to concur the ambivalence of the other. Mixed media hybrids of drawing and painting, Gunlock work repurposes the imagery of construction and industry, blending manmade forms into tall, elegant totems that are part tree, part tower.

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J. RENEE TANNER // jreneetanner.com

J. Renee Tanner is a graphic artist working in the medium of the mass-produced and equally mass-discarded. Her objects are tied to the everyday necessities of cleanliness (rubber gloves), warmth (wool gloves) and comfort (leggings) that can amass the most waste in their global popularity. They are also alluringly tied to the human figure in a way that speaks to caution signs posted by road crossings and railways. She chooses the colors of caution as well, black and yellow as if cautioning the viewer to take into account their own bodies in space.

KATIE STUBBLEFIELD // katiestubblefield.org

Inspired by super-sized weather systems, Stubblefield's imagery is informed by forensic photography and first-hand accounts of nature in constant flux. Her works serve as a record of the visual aftermath of weather, discarded trees, knotted rebar, chunked concrete, mangled clothes, deconstructed architecture and disused vehicle parts, interwoven, tangled and refigured in space. These clouds of debris can take on an almost ominous tone. The artist's passion for the forces of nature cut into the realities she invokes making her creations more a reckoning of awe than a reckoning of destruction.

ABOUT THE LOFT GALLERY

The Loft is in downtown San Pedro at 401 South Mesa in a yellow stucco building. Built in the early 1900s, the building once was Pacific Laundry, which washed all the clothes and linens for cargo ships calling at the port. For 50 years, it served as a warehouse for Harbor Ship Supply, a ship chandler.

Since July 1995, the building has been home to rotating group of contemporary artists who create in huge, airy, sunlit studios. Two galleries with polished floors and high ceilings showcase exhibits mounted bimonthly. Guest artists are invited to show their work, and community meetings, musical events and poetry readings are also held there.

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High-resolution images available upon request.