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ART
ON
DEMAND

FRAGMENTED SELF

curated by
CHRISTINA BILLINGHAM, UFV intern

Fragmented Self is a selection of work by Fraser Valley artists Andrew Booth (Abbotsford), Paige Caldwell (Langley), and Amanda Vergara (Maple Ridge).

Andrew Booth uses oil paint to create abstracted portraits. Bold, gestural strokes eliminate facial features in the artist's bust forms. Booth, who does not work from models or photographs but defers to visual memory, seeks to communicate what he calls "emotional fluency" which he defines as authentic emotion without judgment or attachment. Unlike conventional portraits these paintings are not intended to capture specific likenesses, and instead suggest something more general about the dissociative impacts of contemporary culture.

Paige Caldwell's works are characterized by disfiguration. Like Booth, Caldwell's works are rooted in the human form, yet her focus is on mutated figures. Caldwell's figures are composed of geometric shapes, distorted proportions and exaggerated angles, and created from unrefined materials like unfinished wood and charcoal. Oscillating between over-life-sized studies and diminutive sketches, conventional physical representation is replaced by specters of the human body that are equally compelling and troubling.

Amanda Vergara's photographs likewise challenge notions of beauty. In the artist's Blinded by Beauty series, the sitters include models and the artist herself. Vergara has emphasized facial features typically associated with feminine beauty: long eye lashes, big lips, carefully defined eyebrows. Using a gelatinous mold-making medium called alginate, she obscures portions of the models faces. These photographs have been carefully crafted to reflect beauty standards that are easily commodified and overtly sexualized, yet Vergara repeatedly interferes with our ability to consume these images as objects of pure pleasure.

Though disparate, the artists' respective depictions of the human form speak to a collective desire to disrupt our expectations of figurative representation. By challenging the certitude of recognizable human features, they present us with a discomfoting critique of the physical ideal.

ARTISTS

ANDREW BOOTH

Born and raised in Abbotsford, BC, Andrew Booth is a self-taught abstract figurative and landscape artist, working primarily in oils. Andrew's work has been included in various exhibitions and installations in Vancouver and Abbotsford.

PAIGE CALDWELL

Paige Caldwell is currently in her third year of her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at the University of the Fraser Valley. As a Visual Arts Major, she has been navigating her way through learning new techniques and mediums and is leaning toward a future in set design for theatre, film and television. After graduation, Paige plans to complete her Masters in Fine Arts abroad.

AMANDA VERGARA

Amanda is an emerging artist currently enrolled in the Fine Arts program at University of the Fraser Valley. Her main goal is to create a connection with viewers on a personal level, who may have similar experiences, but also to the general public who may relate to the work on various levels. Much of her work engages with the audience, eliciting emotional reactions. The mediums Amanda commonly uses are photography, painting, sculpture, and extended media.

SELF

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FRAGMENTED

exhibition runs

MARCH 23 - MAY 7, 2017

opening reception

MARCH 23, 2017 | 6PM

at The Reach Gallery Museum Abbotsford



EMERGE

PROGRAM

The Reach Gallery Museum | 32388 Veterans Way, Abbotsford, BC
thereach.ca/emerge