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The Potential of Objects

A provocative exhibition of sculpture highlighting eleven emerging artists

NOVATO, CA (March 2022) On April 2, the Marin Museum of Contemporary Art opens *The Potential of Objects*, a new exhibition highlighting eleven emerging artists with ties to the Bay Area who use everyday materials to thoughtfully explore the human condition. In their hands, objects double as conduits, vessels, mirrors, and talismans to engage with a range of issues. The works on view deploy a variety of media—clay, textile, assemblage, photography, performance, sound, and more—and aspire to spark dialogue and debate. The exhibition considers the capacity of sculpture to transform our relationships—both to the world that surrounds us and to one another. The exhibition is on view through June 5, with a reception on Saturday, April 2 from 3-5pm. Docent tours begin April 6 and take place Wednesdays at 11am and Saturdays at 2pm. Admission: \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and students. Hours: Wed-Fri, 11am-4pm, Sat-Sun, 11am-5pm.

Artists in the exhibition: **Teresa Baker, Ashwini Bhat, Demetri Broxton, Sophronia Cook, Tyler Cross & Kyle Lypka, Renée Gertler, Cathy Lu, Masako Miki, Natani Notah and Peter Simensky.**

Some of the featured artists invent entirely new forms to seek universal

connection. For instance, Ashwini Bhat draws on her southern Indian roots and training in classical dance and literature to create ceramics, sculpture,

installation, and performance. Her radical but somehow familiar forms suggest

a complex interplay between landscape, humanity, and the non-human to explore the interdependency of species. **Peter Simensky** assembles everyday knickknacks into anthropomorphic sculptures that serve as functioning receivers and transmitters; their shards of reflective pyrite (fool's gold) capture audio from AM transmissions. The sculptures speak, literally, and connect directly into the communities they inhabit via live broadcasts.



Ashwini Bhat, *My Body Is Dirt, My Spirit Is Space* (detail), 2021-2022, glazed ceramic, thread, wood, 48 x 12 x 8 in. Courtesy of the artist and Shoshana Wayne Gallery.

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Other featured artists manipulate traditional cultural forms through a contemporary lens. For example, Natani

Notah explores contemporary Native American identity through a female Navajo perspective. Made from secondhand garments, Notah's soft sculptures often pair unexpected elements with Native beadwork, leatherwork, and fiber to complicate our understanding of inherited tradition and value. **Cathy Lu's** work embodies hints of Chinese mythology and American symbolism. Her *American Dream Pillows* are inspired by two very different sources: ceramic pillows from the Song and Tang dynasties that were believed to influence dreams and life experiences, and the tensions between the promises of the American dream and the realities of racism and exclusion. **Tyler Cross & Kyle Lypka** leverage their intimate relationship to create collaborative ceramic sculptures. Their expansive take on that most primitive of objects, the vessel, translates line drawings into clay and incorporates meticulous experimental glazing techniques to create forms both familiar and otherworldly. The couple's shared endeavor of object making resists the tendencies of the digital realm to disembody, and thus endanger, real-world connection.

High resolution images available upon request.



Natani Notah. *Shell-Shocked*, 2021, vintage t-shirt, shell beads, thread, faux fur, belt and plastic corn pellets, 15 x 11 8 in. Courtesy of the artist.



Peter Simensky, *Pyrite Pirate Radio - drum kit*, 2021, Pyrite (fool's gold), steel, plywood, copper, electrical wires, antenna cymbal, brass tubes, amplifiers, and radio hardware. Courtesy of the artist.



Cathy Lu, *American Dream Pillow*, 2020, porcelain, 17 x 11 x 6 in. Courtesy of the artist.

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