A LUTA CONTINUA
CURATOR: ZINHLE ESSAMUAH

GALLERY 102:
LEIGHAH SCULLY & MIMI GRASSI, CO-CHAIRS
NICOLE OSBORNE, GRAPHIC DESIGN
ANDY JOHNSON, GALLERY DIRECTOR

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THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, DC

GALLERY 102

A LUTA CONTINUA
March 6 - 24
Hannah Ayasse is a dance artist born and based in Oakland, CA. She received her BA in Dance and Psychology from The George Washington University and has presented work in the Bay Area and DC. Hannah’s choreography and improvisational practice focus on the themes of empathy and reaction as she studies how humans relate to others and their environment. You can find her most recent ongoing creative collaboration on Instagram at @exquisitemovement.

Joy Imani Bullock is a freelance multimedia journalist and aspiring change-maker currently living in Washington, DC. A graduate from The George Washington University with a bachelor’s degree in Organizational Sciences, she is currently pursuing her master’s in New Media Photojournalism at George Washington as well.

Krista Cocozello strives to reflect on the experiences of her youth and the values of her heart in the subject of each work, regardless of medium. In May of 2016, she graduated from The George Washington University with her Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and, in addition, studied poetry and memoir where she began to

Jazalyn Dukes is a self-taught photographer from Chesapeake, VA, now residing in the DC Metropolitan area. She uses photography for three main reasons: to share her observations of the world, to express thoughts that are at times difficult to articulate, and to create and preserve memories. Her current work focuses mostly on abstract images, events, and portraits. She works with both digital and film format photography. Her work was most recently exhibited at the Artists and Makers 2 Studios in Rockville, MD, and was featured in the 2016 Black Female Photographers Photo Annual.

Handirubvi Indigo Wakatama is a Zimbabwean born artist who resides and works in the United States. She uses a wide variety of mediums, gathering inspiration from notions of home, identity, gender, alongside other social issues. Her work has been shown at galleries & alternative spaces for group exhibitions in New York, Maryland, Washington D.C and London.

Dwight White is a self-taught painter and graphic designer. A former D1 athlete, Dwight picked up the paintbrush after he stopped playing football. Since then, he says, it’s been a journey of exploration, across mediums and within himself.

Rachel Wendt is a senior at GWU. Her studies are heavily rooted in science, with very slight meddling in the arts. She has always been surrounded by artistic minds who have encouraged and inspired her creative pursuits, yet remains largely self-taught. Strongly influenced by her personal life experiences and scientific training, she turns towards art to articulate concepts that cannot be explained away by charts and data, specifically regarding struggles with mental health and the tumultuous path to recovery. This is her first work to be displayed.

Juliana Vallejo is a Colombian artist residing in the Washington Metropolitan Area. She received her B.A. in Studio Art from the University of Maryland in Fredericksburg, Virginia; where she was the recipient of the Undergraduate Research Grant Founding for her research in painting: Abstract Experiment. She is a process-focused artist, the interaction between her with medium and surface plays an essential role in her art making. Her main focus of work has been painting and drawing, although she is continually experimenting with new media that allow her to develop her own language and convey her buried thoughts.

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Zinhle Essamuah to put it simply, is a storyteller. Zinhle is an award winning filmmaker, photographer and performance artist. For five years, she has owned and operated SimplyZinhle Productions, LLC, a media production company developing creative content that challenges audiences through visual and digital storytelling. Through her company, Zinhle has turned artwork into action, producing freelance photography work, art gallery exhibitions, and documentary films. Her first film, Hands Up chronicled the #BlackLivesMatter movement and premiered at festivals and communities around the U.S., Vancouver and U.K. earning her Master’s in Media and Strategic Communication with a concentration in Documentary Filmmaking. When not filming or writing, Zinhle performs as a vocalist and actor. She has performed at ATLAS Theatre and the American Visionary Art Museum of Maryland. As a playwright, her original work was performed at Arena Stage in Washington D.C. When not creating, Zinhle reads (and writes in the margins), travels and laughs real loud. Learn more at simplyzinhle.com.

Chuck Fletcher is an accomplished Washington DC photographer living in the metro area with his beautiful family of three children. He also owns Rush Street Gallery, a digital exhibition of contemporary artistic photography. In addition to his photo work with the Federal Government’s Executive Office, he was published in Art Tour International’s 2015 Top 60 Masters of Contemporary Art. C. Downing also won the 2015 American Art Awards as well the professional category in the NY publication, Creative Quarterly Journal of Art and Design v 41. In 2016, he had two pieces accepted for exhibition at the Biggs Museum of American Art in Dover DE. In addition to publishing in professional and academic art journals, his work has been shown in many east coast galleries. More examples can be seen on this website www.beonfilm.com.

MichaelAngelo Rodriguez is a Contemporary Fine Art Photographer and preparator for Gallery 102 in Washington, D.C. He received an A.A Degree from Tidewater Community College, and is currently pursuing a BFA from George Washington University. He has participated in multiple group shows in the United States. He has lived in Norfolk and is currently residing in Washington. His Photography is mostly conceptual. He experiments with long exposure photographic techniques.

Zahra Rehman is an alumna of The George Washington University where she studied English and Biology, and further went on to pursue a Master’s degree in Anatomical and Translational Sciences. She is passionate about medicine, literature, and how the two fields are intertwined. She loves listening to stories and relaying the intricate narratives of extraordinary everyday humans, who consistently inspire her. She hopes to one day continue her education and obtain a Doctor of Medicine degree and continue to pursue a career in Trauma or Surgical medicine, and wishes to shape the future by playing a role in the crossroads between medicine, international healthcare development, and working with displaced communities. In her post-grad limbo, she finds joy in travel, hiking mountains, and sitting in corners of coffee shops reading and writing.

Eissa Saeed is a graduate student at the George Washington University, where he is exploring the intersections between politics and culture, and how strategic communication and popular media inject political discourse into the zeitgeist. Originally, from Islamabad, Pakistan, he is currently working on his final work at GW, an original play titled “Home Sick” that centers around the Muslim-American experience of coming out. He spends his spare time obsessing over pandas and binging Australian reality TV.

Marissa Salgado is a graduate of the George Washington University's class of 2015. Her passion is people-seeing them, knowing them, and allowing relationships that cross ethnic, religious, and socio economic divides to shape her heart for justice and reconciliation. As a biracial Mexican-American who continues to find her voice in the midst of conversations around immigration, she hopes her words are used as a way of building a bridge between white America and the Latino-immigrant community. Living and working in an immigrant neighborhood in Alexandria, Marissa hopes to continue to be an advocate for her students and their families, teaching them to value their stories and share their truth.

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David Fuchs and Christine Stoddard are both each other’s artistic collaborators and spouses. Together and separately, they have shown their visual and multimedia work at the New York Transit Museum, the Poe Museum, the Ground Zero Hurricane Katrina Museum, the Condé Nast Building in Times Square, Arts East New York Gallery, the Shenandoah Valley Art Center, and beyond. Fuchs and Stoddard co-create projects under Quail Bell Press and Productions.

Randi Gloss is a DC-raised social entrepreneur, activist & writer. Her brand GLOSSRAGS, is committed to conscious consumerism through critically crafted designs that are a catalyst for social activism & discourse. The signature “And Counting” Collection of apparel does the necessary work of memorializing black men and women who’ve lost their lives at the hands of police and trigger-happy citizens. Through GLOSSRAGS Media Co., Randi is working to produce meaningful media focused on telling critical, unheard narratives of Black Americans. Her work is featured in Fast Company, Complex, The Fader, Essence, Nylon Magazine and other publications.

Life Pieces to Masterpieces (LPTM) is a non-profit that provides African American males, living in low-income and public housing in Washington D.C. with opportunities to discover their ability to change challenges into possibilities. LPTM uses artistic expression to develop character and leadership, unlock potential, and prepare African American boys and young men to transform their lives and communities. It is through our Human Development System curriculum that we give rise to a generation of youth and future adults who will influence positive change and demonstrate social responsibility.

Bani Malhotra is an Indian native, a self-taught artist from childhood, seeking to bring together the disciplines of fine arts, theatre and psychology to use expressive arts therapeutically. She has used her experience as a psychologist and artist to work with psychiatric and burn patients, juvenile offenders, transgender community, street children and children with special needs. Bani’s artwork is a visual reflection of her ongoing search for truth in social and personal constructs through poetry, philosophy and introspection. She has exhibited her works at Sri Aurobindo Center for Arts and Communication and Center for Creative Expressions in New Delhi, India. Bani is presently pursuing her M.A. in Art Therapy from GWU and has a M.A. in Psychology from University of Delhi, India.

Jennifer Meneray is a graduate student at The George Washington University. She is working on her Master’s Degree in Women’s Studies. A committed advocate for social justice, her work focuses on eliminating coercion, power and control. She is a sexual assault and intimate partner violence victim advocate and emphasizes the importance of addressing trauma. She writes poetry in her spare time and believes that writing can be a form of healing from past trauma(s).

Randi Gloss

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Laylaa Randera takes a critical view of social, political and cultural issues. Photographer and multi-media artist, I deconstruct culture and gender boundaries, urban development, race relations, and the African diaspora. I am interested in the way the archive, myth, iconography and symbolism relate to the contemporary world. I turn my lens on the unseen side, explore the notions of visibility and invisibility, and tropes of gender and race. Delving into the social currents of the city scape, my interest is youth culture in Washington, D.C. and Johannesburg; migration, gentrification and urban development spill into the formation of sub-cultures. It becomes an ever changing dialogue between gestures, settings, faces, figures, actions, and that which disturbs it. The images I make are an exploration of how cultures form and deteriorate, nationalities merge, subjects interact, as well as how the opposite—conflict, dislocation, exploitation—is signified, and negotiated through history and mediation.

Nkechi Okoronkwo is a Junior at GWU majoring in Human Services and Social Justice. She is a cultivator of joy. Scholar. Friend of the flowers. Writing her story, living her truth.

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