

Clew: A Rich and Rewarding Disorientation

Deborah Barlow, Todd Hearon, Jung Mi Lee & Jon Sakata

Imagine you are given a fragment of a map. It is crumpled, mottled with age and dirt, and only partially legible. What would you do with it? Does it need to lead you to a predetermined destination, or could you allow it to take you somewhere else, unexpected?

The word *clew* has a multitude of meanings: most notably, it was the ball of thread Ariadne gave to Theseus to guide him out of the labyrinth of the Minotaur. The word can also refer to the lower part of a ship's sail, the rigging of a hammock, or a fact or point, which, when followed, can reveal something: evidence. A *clew* is also a *clue*.

A clew is a proposition for a journey: of wonder, curiosity, confusion, and amazement. Within *Clew: A Rich and Rewarding Disorientation*, artists Deborah Barlow, Todd Hearon, Jung Mi Lee and Jon Sakata invite you to destinations unknown: where painting encounters sound which overlaps with poetry, and where texture provides a map to the cosmos, and hints at things geologic, massive, and temporal.

The exhibition was developed collaboratively over the past year: through conversations, experimentation, and physical engagement: taking one path—conceptually, visually, or sonically—and then another. A commitment to inquiry and a spirit of generosity led the expedition: each artist gave their work, their aesthetic sensibilities, and their openness to each other, as gifts. No one knew where this wandering would lead.

As you move through the space, you may encounter objects rendered in a new ways and assumptions dismantled or upended. You may feel soothed and vexed, simultaneously. We have not provided any traditional clews, or clues: objects do not have labels, explanations, or guides. We hope you will reconsider what it means *to know* and *to feel*, in a fully embodied way. We encourage you to experiment with how you interact with the artwork. Peer around the edges, stand very close, or lie on the floor. Meditate. Breathe. Count every sparkly highlight on the wall. See what involving all of your senses brings to the aesthetic experience. What does *looking differently* allow you to see? Linger a while and find out.

There is no map and no one route, but many destinations—and delights—along the way.

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