

Unmasking Through Art

K O E G E L
A U T I S M
C E N T E R

T E R R E S T R I A L
D E B R I S

/ M E R

EXHIBITION

A L I
W I L L I A M S
2023

UNMASKING THROUGH ART

The members of Creative Club and Community and the Koegel Autism Center invite YOU to UCSB's 3rd annual neurodivergent-curated art show, by and for those who think differently!



05:30 - 08:00
PM

THURSDAY
07
DECEMBER
2023

KOEGEL AUTISM
CENTER

Find More Information:

hannahcrousore@ucsb.edu

CALL FOR ART



I AM REACHING OUT TO YOU ON BEHALF OF THE KOEGEL AUTISM CENTER'S CREATIVE CLUB AND COMMUNITY GROUPS, INVITING YOU TO UCSB'S 3RD ANNUAL ART SHOW BY AND FOR THE NEURODIVERGENT COMMUNITY!

REGARDLESS OF ONE'S DIAGNOSIS OR PARTICIPATION IN THE NEURODIVERGENT MOVEMENT, THE MEMBERS OF CREATIVE CLUB AND COMMUNITY AND THE KOEGEL AUTISM CENTER INVITE ANYONE AND EVERYONE TO UNMASKING THROUGH ART, UCSB'S 3RD ANNUAL NEURODIVERGENT-CURATED ART SHOW, BY AND FOR THOSE WHO THINK DIFFERENTLY!

WE ARE URGENTLY SEEKING ARTISTS, MUSICIANS, AND PERFORMERS WORKING WITH ANY AND ALL FORMS OF ART, INCLUDING PAINTING, WRITING, DRAWING, SPOKEN WORD, SCULPTURE, MUSIC, DIGITAL WORK, PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEO, AND MORE!

THE TOPICS OR CONTENT BEHIND ANY WORKS SUBMITTED DO NOT NEED TO BE RELATED TO THE SUBJECT OF NEURODIVERSITY, BUT IT'S ALWAYS GREAT IF ANYONE FEELS CALLED TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE OF THINKING DIFFERENTLY AS IT RELATES TO YOUR ART.

THE SHOW OPENS ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7TH, FROM 5:30-8PM AT THE KOEGEL AUTISM CENTER ON UCSB CAMPUS, AND WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

THIS YEAR, WE'RE AGAIN FORTUNATE TO OFFER OUR ARTISTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLACE THEIR ARTWORKS FOR SALE, WITH 100% OF THE PROCEEDS GOING TO THE ARTIST!

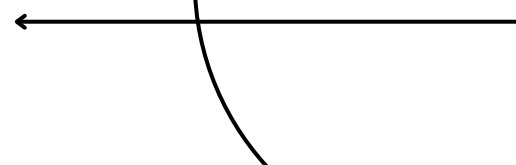
THROUGH THIS SHOW, WE HOPE TO UPLIFT NEURODIVERGENT ARTISTS AND MEMBERS OF OUR GREATER SANTA BARBARA COMMUNITY WHO IDENTIFY WITH ADHD, AUTISM, DYSLEXIA, EPILEPSY, HYPERLEXIA, DYSCALCULIA, DYSPRAXIA, OCD, TOURETTE SYNDROME, AND MORE. AS SOCIOLOGIST AND CREATOR OF THE TERM "NEURODIVERGENT" JUDY SINGER ORIGINALLY INTENDED, OUR USE OF THE TERM NEURODIVERSITY HOPES TO SHIFT THE FOCUS OF THE DISCOURSE REGARDING THESE ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF THINKING OR LEARNING AWAY FROM AN EMPHASIS ON DEFICITS, IMPAIRMENTS, AND DISORDERS; HOPING TO MOVE TOWARD A POSITIVE UNDERSTANDING AND EMBRACE OF THE DIVERSITY AND CAPABILITIES OF ALL PEOPLE.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ANY AND ALL HELP THAT YOU MIGHT BE WILLING TO GIVE IN SHARING OR CONTRIBUTING TO THIS PROJECT! I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!

KINDLY,

CREATIVE CLUB & COMMUNITY
KOEGEL AUTISM CENTER

2030



PROPOSAL

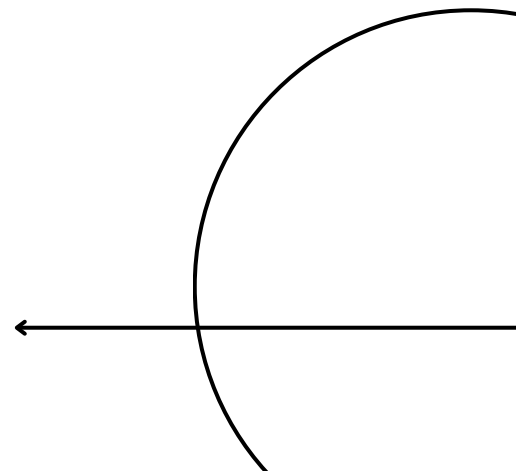
P1 ○

I AM IN THE PROCESS OF CREATING A SERIES RIGHT NOW FOR A SHOW IN FEBRUARY. I WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE PIECES THAT I MAKE OVER THE NEXT MONTH OR SO - I DON'T HAVE THE NAMES OR DETAILS YET. THE MEDIUM IS CLAY, AND I WILL LIKELY ALSO HAVE A POEM OR WRITTEN TEXT TO ACCOMPANY THE PIECES. I AM THINKING PROBABLY 3 PIECES, EACH AROUND 12" OR LESS. I WOULD NEED EITHER LINE TO HANG THE WORK FROM THE CEILING, OR PLINTHS. A TABLE WOULD NOT HAVE ENOUGH OF A VISUAL IMPACT. I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE THE WORK AVAILABLE FOR SALE, AND I PROJECT THE PRICE OF EACH PIECE TO BE BETWEEN \$100-500, DEPENDING ON COMPLEXITY AND SIZE.

I AM ORIGINALLY FROM LOS ANGELES, AND NOW LIVE IN OJAI WITH MY TWO DAUGHTERS. I CONSIDER CALIFORNIA MY HOME AND A DEEP SOURCE OF MY CREATIVE, INTELLECTUAL, AND SOCIAL RESEARCH AND WORK. I ACKNOWLEDGE AND HONOR THAT I OCCUPY LAND ORIGINALLY AND STILL INHABITED AND CARED FOR BY THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE AREA, INCLUDING THE CHUMASH, PAIUTE, AND TONGVA PEOPLES. I CONSIDER IN MY LIFE AND MY WORK THE ONGOING STEWARDSHIP OF THESE ANCESTRAL LANDS AND WATERS, AND THE INTERWEAVINGS AND CONFLICTS THAT ARISE FROM THE HISTORY AND CONTEMPORARY HABITATION OF THESE PLACES AND SPACES.

WHEN NOT CREATING, I ENJOY SPENDING TIME WITH MY TWO TEENAGE DAUGHTERS AND MY VERY SMALL DOG, DOING AS MUCH NOTHING AS POSSIBLE. IF I'M NOT BINGING INTERNATIONAL CRIME SHOWS OR BOOK SERIES, YOU CAN FIND ME IN THE HILLS OF THE OJAI VALLEY, DIGGING AROUND FOR GOOD CLAY DEPOSITS AND ENJOYING THE VIEW.

MY DAUGHTERS ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT PEOPLE IN MY LIFE. THEY ARE BOTH UNIQUELY CREATIVE, PASSIONATE, AND ENGAGED HUMANS, AND THEY INSPIRE ME EVERY DAY (EVEN WHEN THEY'RE DRIVING ME NUTS!). I AM FORTUNATE FOR MY NETWORK OF FASCINATING FRIENDS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE, WHO SHOW UP FOR ME IN SO MANY WAYS, AND WHO I AM GRATEFUL TO LIKewise BE PRESENT FOR.

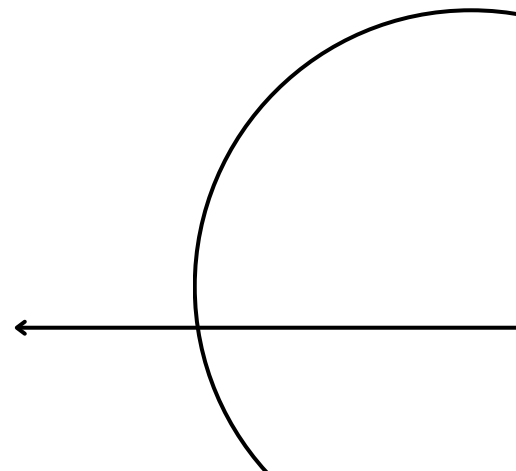


PROPOSAL

P2 ○

I SELF-DIAGNOSED WITH INATTENTIVE ADHD TWO YEARS AGO, AT THE AGE OF 48, AFTER I IDENTIFIED THE NEEDS THAT MY DAUGHTER HAD STRUGGLED WITH AS ADHD AND STARTED THE PATH TO HER DIAGNOSIS AND SUPPORT. IT WAS BOTH PAINFUL AND A RELIEF TO BE ABLE TO HELP HER AND MYSELF AT THE SAME TIME, RECOGNIZING THE WAYS IN WHICH OUR BRAINS/BODIES FUNCTIONED THAT DID NOT FIT WITH THE SYSTEMS WE WERE TRYING TO WORK WITHIN. THIS PATH TO "DIAGNOSIS" WAS INCREDIBLY LIBERATING, AS I REALIZED THAT I HAD BEEN STRUGGLING WITH TRYING TO FIT MYSELF INTO PARTICULAR BOXES AND PARADIGMS AS A CREATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL PERSON THROUGHOUT MY LIFE, WHICH HAD DEEPLY IMPACTED MY MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH, MY RELATIONSHIPS, AND INHIBITED MY WORK. AS I'VE BEEN ABLE TO EXPLORE MY IDENTITY AS INCLUDING NEURODIVERSITY, I HAVE FOUND AN EXPLOSION OF CREATIVE FREEDOM, WHICH HAS RESULTED IN NEW PATHWAYS OF CREATIVE AND RESEARCH WORK, AND MY CURRENT PURSUIT OF A PHD IN CREATIVE PRACTICE.

THE CHALLENGES I'VE EXPERIENCED HAVE NOT ALWAYS BEEN OVERT - IT'S OFTEN TAKEN THE FORM OF AN OVERALL SENSE OF NOT FITTING IN, NOT QUITE BEING ABLE OR EVEN WANTING TO MEET UP WITH SOCIETAL EXPECTATIONS AND NORMS. ON THE ONE HAND, THIS HAS LED TO AN EMPATHETIC EARLY AWARENESS OF DISPARITY IN SOCIETY AND A COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL JUSTICE; A FIERCE INDEPENDENT STREAK THAT BROUGHT ME TO EARLY ENTREPRENEURSHIP; AND A UNIQUE WAY OF SEEING THE WORLD THAT HAS BROUGHT ME MUCH JOY. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT OFTEN FEELS LIKE I AM LEADING TWO (OR MORE) LIVES; I AM CONTINUALLY EXHAUSTED FROM HAVING TO NAVIGATE THE STRUCTURES I WORK WITHIN TO SURVIVE AND SUCCEED; AND MY MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH HAS SUFFERED. I HAVE OFTEN FELT LIKE I AM WRONG, OR "DOING IT WRONG," AND THIS HAS INHIBITED MY CREATIVITY AND MY WORK.



Hello Ali!

Thank you so much for participating in UNMASKING THROUGH ART! We truly had our best show yet, all thanks to YOU and your artwork! We are really so beyond appreciative of each and every work of art that we had the honor to show to our absolutely wonderful community - and we are so pleased that so many of the works sold!

We wanted to send you a hearty congratulations, because some of your work(s) sold! I'm reaching out to give you the contact(s) of the folks who purchased your art. 100% of the proceeds of any artwork sold go directly to the artist, so we ask that the artist reach out to the buyers of their work to coordinate payment (whether that be through Venmo, Zelle, Cashapp, or simply just cash or a check). After the show is over (all of the works are requested to remain in KAC for one week after the show so that anybody who missed the event can see the works), I'll send out an email to artists and new art owners alike to alert them when they can come pick up their works.

"Terrestrial Debris/Mer" -- purchased by Avery Voos -- (203)868-1468 or avery.voos@gmail.com

"Terrestrial Debris/Mer" -- purchased by Lisa Jevbratt -- jevbratt@arts.ucsb.edu

If you encounter any issues with getting payment or contacting your buyer(s), please don't hesitate to reach out to me and I will do as much as possible to advocate on your behalf and aid the situation however possible.

Thank you so much!

Best,

Hannah

Hannah Crousore | she.her.hers
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Koegel Autism Center,
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Gaucho Network



TERRESTRIAL DEBRIS / MER

TERRESTRIAL DEBRIS /MER [2023]

FOR SALE - \$25 PER UNIT / ASK ARTIST

Ali Williams

Where are you from? Is there a place that you identify with more than where you're from? Why? I am originally from Los Angeles, and now live in Ojai with my two daughters. I consider California my home and a deep source of my creative, intellectual, and social research and work. I acknowledge and honor that I occupy land originally and still inhabited and cared for by the Indigenous peoples of the area, including the Chumash, Paiute, and Tongva Peoples. I consider in my life and my work the ongoing stewardship of these ancestral lands and waters, and the interweavings and conflicts that arise from the history and contemporary habitation of these places and spaces.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time, when you're not creating?

When not creating, I enjoy spending time with my two teenage daughters and my very small dog, doing as much nothing as possible. If I'm not bingeing international crime shows or book series, you can find me in the hills around the Ojai Valley, digging around for good clay deposits and enjoying the view.

Who in your life is most important to you? Why?

My uniquely creative, passionate, and engaged daughters inspire me every day - even when they're driving me nuts! I am fortunate for my network of fascinating friends from all walks of life, who show up for me in so many ways, and who I am grateful to likewise be present for.

In what way(s) do your experiences with neurodiversity influence your artwork/creative process? I diagnosed myself two years ago at age 48 with inattentive ADHD, after I identified the needs that my daughter had struggled with as ADHD and started the path to her diagnosis and support. It was both painful and a relief to be able to help her and myself at the same time, recognizing the ways in which our brains/bodies functioned that did not fit with the systems we were trying to work within. This path to "diagnosis" was incredibly liberating, as I realized that I had been struggling with trying to fit myself into particular boxes and paradigms as a creative and professional person throughout my life, which had deeply impacted my mental and physical health, my relationships, and inhibited my work. As I've been able to explore my identity as including neurodiversity, I have found an explosion of creative freedom, which has resulted in new pathways of creative and research work, and my current pursuit of a PhD in Creative Practice.

Have you encountered any barriers or challenges in your artistic career due to your experiences with neurodiversity?

The challenges I've experienced have not always been overt - they've often taken the form of an overall sense of not fitting in, not quite being able or even wanting to meet up with societal expectations and norms. On the one hand, this has led to an empathetic early awareness of disparity in society and a commitment to social justice; a fierce independent streak that brought me to early entrepreneurship; and a unique way of seeing the world that has brought me much joy. On the other hand, it often feels like I am leading two (or more) lives; I am continually exhausted from having to navigate the structures I work within to survive and succeed; and my mental and physical health have suffered. I have often felt like I am wrong, or "doing it wrong," and this has inhibited my creativity and my work.

