

For Immediate Release

And the beat goes on... 20 years/26 artists
20th Anniversary Exhibition in 2026
21 March – 15 May 2026
Opening Reception: Saturday, March 21, 4-7pm

Walter Maciel Gallery is pleased to present ***And the Beat Goes On... 20 Years / 26 Artists***, a group exhibition celebrating our gallery's 20th anniversary featuring specially selected works by artists from our program. Walter Maciel Gallery opened on March 18, 2006 in the newly formed Culver City Arts District. Our exhibition reflects two decades of commitment to presenting thought-provoking and conceptually driven artworks from the diverse perspectives of our program artists.

The title continues the gallery's tradition of marking milestone anniversaries with references to achievements in creative endeavors. It builds upon the gallery's inaugural exhibition, *As Good As Your Next Gig*, followed by the ten-year anniversary exhibition, *A Star Is Born: Ten Years Later* and the fifteen-year exhibition, *In the Groove: Persistence and Endurance*. Each title reflects a different chapter in the gallery's history and acknowledges the persistence required to sustain an artist-centered program over time. The Hollywood-inflected language of these titles draws parallels to the gallery's formation in Los Angeles, a city shaped by performance, reinvention, and resilience.

When the gallery opened in 2006, the art world was experiencing a thriving market marked by record-breaking auction results and a renewed enthusiasm for emerging artists. By the time of our ten-year anniversary exhibition, the gallery had navigated the global economic recession that began in late 2008 and adapted to significant shifts within the contemporary art landscape. Our fifteen-year anniversary was celebrated the year following the international shutdown during the Covid-19 crisis that began in 2020. And now, as we celebrate our twenty-year anniversary, we are faced with difficult economic hurdles, international wars and a lacking interest in experiencing art outside of the digital realm. Throughout all of the challenges, our exhibition program has evolved while maintaining our interest in emphasizing community and awareness to diversity, materiality and expression to be in dialogue with the vibrant cultural ecosystem of Los Angeles, California and other creative areas of the US. As the art world continues to transform, our gallery remains committed to the same spirit of collaboration and advocacy that has defined its program from the beginning with a physical space for our artists to show their work and an opportunity to continue to promote their careers.

The exhibition brings together artists whose practices span painting, sculpture, photography, video, textiles, ceramics and mixed media. Many works draw upon personal history, cultural identity, and social commentary, while others explore the formal possibilities of abstraction, material experimentation and constructed environments. The exhibition will include works by: Barry Anderson, John Bankston, Freddy Chandra, T.J. Dedeaux-Norris, Colin Doherty, Cynthia Ona Innis, John Jurayj, Andy Kolar, Willie Little, the estate of Hung Liu, Brendan Lott, Tommy Mitchell, Dean Monogenis, Timothy Paul Myers, Rachael Neubauer, Maria E. Piñeres, Pepa Prieto, Robb Putnam, Lezley Saar, Sóla Saar, Nike Schröder, Katherine Sherwood, Lisa Solomon, Nathan Vincent, Jil Weinstock and Dana Weiser.

A significant portion of our gallery's program highlights artists whose work is rooted in personal experience and cultural identity. Hung Liu drew upon her experiences during China's Cultural Revolution to create paintings based on historical photographs, transforming images of hardship into dignified portrayals of resilience. Similarly, Lezley Saar explores themes of race, colorism and identity through painting, collage and sculpture that draw upon literature, historical periods and personal history. Katherine Sherwood's work addresses feminism and personal experience with her painted interpretations of famous female nudes and still life paintings from 17th century women artists, often portrayed with disabilities to question notions of beauty. Nearly 30 years ago, Sherwood had a cerebral hemorrhage that left most of the right side of her body paralyzed and created an opportunity for her left hand to become her dominant side. John

Bankston's vividly colored animated paintings unfold surreal narratives that reflect his experiences navigating race and sexuality. Tommy Mitchell presents expressive portraits rendered in ballpoint pen and acrylic paint that capture the personalities and nuances of people in his personal realm, while John Jurajj explores his Lebanese heritage within a historical context based on the conflicts and consequences over religion and power in the Middle East. Wille Little reconstructs America's tainted past with his portraits and assemblage sculptures using pickaninny dolls to transform racist objects into powerful icons that honor the historical resilience and cultural contributions of Black women.

Other artists investigate identity through material processes and spirituality. Lisa Solomon explores the intersection of her Japanese and Jewish heritage through installations and sculptural objects informed by color theory and craft traditions. Dana Weiser draws on her personal experience of being a Korean adoptee in a Jewish American family, addressing experiences of racism and cultural displacement through works made using ceramics, embroidery and other labor-intensive techniques. Rachael Neubauer's evocative abstract forms include luster glazes over areas of the stoneware that are reminiscent of natural elements like mountain ranges and rock formations. The work eludes a spiritual essence capturing both the expensive and freeing landscape of the Eastern Sierra and the loss stemming from her father's death. Sóla Saar's *Solita Tarot* collages include her interpretations inspired by the symbolic traditions of the Rider-Waite Tarot and the Thoth Tarot that we recently featured at our gallery.

Material experimentation is another important thread throughout the exhibition. Cynthia Ona Innis creates abstract paintings inspired by geological formations and the natural landscapes of the American West, while Freddy Chandra produces luminous wall-mounted installations using Plexiglas panels with airbrushed pigment that respond to the legacy of Southern California's Light and Space movement. Dean Monogenis creates dreamlike landscapes that merge modern architecture with imagined natural subjects like mountains, while Timothy Paul Myers constructs sculptural installations resembling domestic interiors made entirely of felt-covered objects. Colin Doherty focuses on rural environments documenting the landscape in and around Lexington, Kentucky with his interpretations of the green rolling hills and isolated country barns.

Textiles and fiber-based practices are also strongly represented in the exhibition. Robb Putnam constructs abstract and animal forms from found fabrics that evoke childhood memory and psychological narratives, while Nathan Vincent uses knitting and crochet to challenge conventional ideas of masculinity and gendered craft traditions with the use of unique stitched patterns to create his new abstract forms. Maria E. Piñeres works primarily in traditional needlepoint choosing unassuming subjects such as celebrities, porn and popular culture to redefine the traditional subject matters with a focus on pattern and color. T.J. Dedeaux-Norris incorporates textiles, sewing, weaving and epoxy to explore memory, censorship and the labor of reconstructing identity through fragments of childhood journals and self-portraiture. Nike Schröder's work explores the use of many materials, most notably stitched threads that create visual lines mimicking a sunset or layers in the natural environment using a specific sequence of colors that hang off the surface of the panel in a sculptural format.

Jil Weinstock uses her signature medium of thin layers of rubber that encase various plant life and are incorporated into photo collages using images she captures with her digital camera in natural environments from her travels around the world. Brendan Lott is a multi-media artist who has been using photography in unique ways featuring works from his *Safer at Home* series that captures the private lives of his neighbors during and post lockdown in the Covid-19 pandemic. Barry Anderson combines images from digital sources to create media works using animations and still images that explore virtual environments, spatial perception and colorful forms. Shape and color are subjects continually explored in Andy Kolar's abstract watercolors with oblong flattened forms interplaying with one another across stark monochromatic backgrounds. Pepa Prieto's abstract paintings explore notions of framing and memory with layered marks containing areas of color and hand drawn lines intersecting across the surfaces.