

For Immediate Release

Nathan Vincent

The Shape of Awareness

8 September – 31 October 2026

Opening Reception: Saturday, September 19, 4-7pm

Walter Maciel Gallery is pleased to present *The Shape of Awareness*, a new body of wall-mounted and free-standing sculptures by Nathan Vincent. This exhibition marks a departure from Vincent's previous representational work focused on gender while continuing his ongoing exploration of yarn as a material with bodily and emotional resonance. Rather than constructing his sculptures over a firm armature, Vincent loosely binds yarn into dense clusters, layering stitches over stitches and stretching modified lace structures into organic webs. Through this process, the yarn becomes malleable, accumulative and capable of producing increasingly intricate sculptural detail. The resulting works outlay Vincent's longstanding engagement with fiber while opening a more abstract and biomorphic vocabulary.

The sculptures hover between containment and expansion, creating forms that appear to swell, replicate, rupture or press against their own components. Tightly wound balls of yarn gather into biomorphic masses, while snake-like forms made of geometric stitched crochet function simultaneously as structure and skin. These lace-like surfaces hold amorphic shapes together while creating illusory depth across the shallow wall-mounted works. Their cellular apertures evoke membranes, viral systems, scales and connective tissue, suggesting bodies and organisms in states of growth and transformation. The contrast between dense clusters and open networks creates a visual tension between interior and exterior, solidity and permeability, containment and release.

Emerging from his earlier inquiry into gender, Vincent's new sculptures consider what happens when an individual's embodied reality does not conform to the categories that have been made available to them. The works suggest that identity is not necessarily fixed or contained but can expand beyond prescribed boundaries. Within the accumulating gestures of fiber, Vincent creates forms that seem to be continually becoming—pushing outward while simultaneously negotiating the structures that surround them. Serpentine forms move through the sculptures as carriers of this tension, drawing from religious narratives of temptation, punishment and forbidden knowledge. The snake is also a longstanding symbol of regeneration, continuity, sensuality and awakening. Often partially concealed within the surrounding fiber, Vincent's serpents become figures for knowledge that has been withheld, internalized or concealed, as well as the possibility of reclaiming that knowledge. Their movement depends upon alternating contraction and extension, echoing the broader rhythm of the exhibition between restraint and emergence.

Hands also recur as sculptural and conceptual anchors, indexing labor, touch, care and embodied awareness. For Vincent, creating his sculptures results from a process of attention and response not the execution of a predetermined image. Each stitch follows the last, allowing the work to develop through contact with what is already present. Vincent's practice is grounded in fiber as both material and language. His hands function as instruments through which he encounters the world and translates sensation, memory and cognition into physical form. The repetitive act of stitching becomes a means of thinking somatically, allowing ideas to emerge gradually through labor and touch. Through this new work, Vincent continues to investigate the relationship between material, identity, and the body, transforming the humble act of stitching into a tangible process of self-recognition.

Vincent studied art at Purchase College, State University of New York, receiving his BFA in 2004. After 13 years of maintaining his art practice in New York, He relocated to Los Angeles in 2017. His work has been exhibited throughout the Northeast and Western United States, including *Queer Threads*, curated by John Chaich at the San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles; *Sew What?*, curated by WMG artist Jil Weinstock at the Children's Museum of the Arts in New York; *Role Play: Changing Ideas about Gender* at the Sun Valley Museum of Art; and *The Mysterious Content of Softness* at the Bellevue Arts Museum. In 2012, Vincent participated in a residency at the Museum of Arts and Design (MAD) in New York.