



Agitator Co-operative Gallery

Exhibits & Programming 2019 – 2021

PLEASE NOTE: Agitator was founded in September 2017, but our current website only lists exhibits since October 2020. We are working to transfer everything to our new site. Meanwhile, we will post a temporary link to the old site soon.



Exhibits & Programming 2019

Street Photography by Emilio Nadales

"Street Photography from my point of view is a time-capsule, unintentional document which interweaves a static past and a continuous present. It is a travel to your subconscious mind, inner self, as much as your past. It is so an unique personal experience that any comment about it from external sources is subjective, irrelevant, and nonsense because your personal experience cannot be analyzed for anybody except you who has created it."

- Emilio Nadales

Emilio Nadales is an American Artist and Photographer who lives in Chicago. Born in Venezuela, he graduated in Advertising in 1997, and was studying Law, Politics, and Philosophy before moving to the U.S.



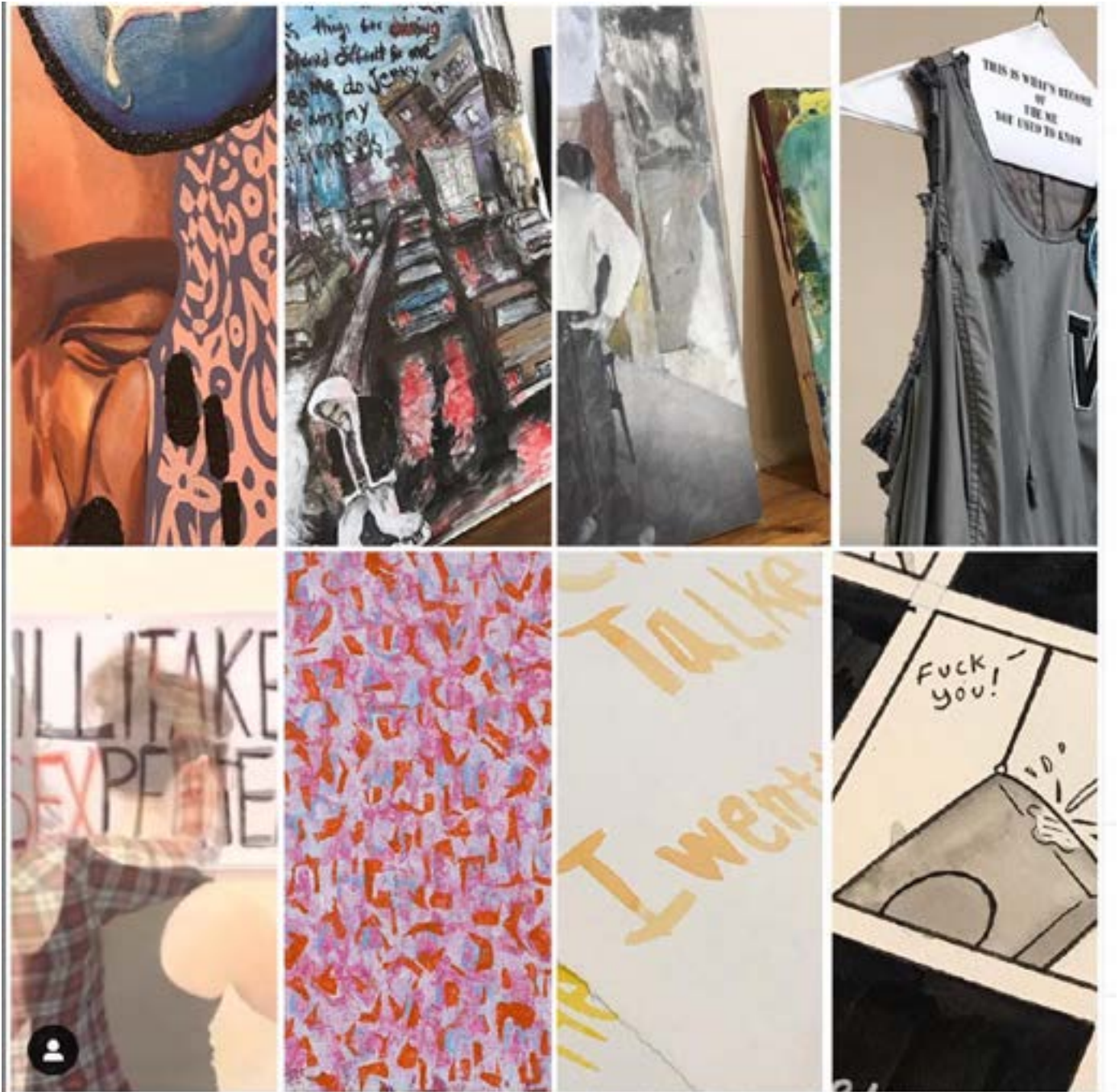
A Display of Confessions

An interdisciplinary exhibit of the personal. Mediums include writing, zines, paintings, mixed media, and sculptural work.

Artists

Michelle Graves
Frederick Nitsch
David Jude Greene
Caroline Liu
Sherry Antonini

Joshua Rampage
John Airo
Cathy Hannah
Katie Meuser
David Alan Sisk





Sex Worker Art Show

Inaugural Partnership with Sex Worker Outreach Project (SWOP) Chicago

[Chicago Reader Article: "When sex work and art work collide"](#)

As both a national organization and a local entity in Chicago, SWOP is an organization dedicated to the central tenet of Rights Not Rescue. To that end, SWOP is run and governed by those of all sexual identities who have been or are currently engaged in sex work. The individuals of SWOP have established a mission of giving voice and empowerment to those engaged in sex work. SWOP works to replace stigma and misinformation with education and advocacy. The political, legal, and ground level ramifications of this work are dedicated to ensuring the rights and safety that any one of us can readily demand and expect in a free society.

- Luna Rail, Agitator Artist / Curator



Chicago Sex Workers Art Show



Opening Reception:

Sun. March 3, 2018. 5-8pm
(International Sex Workers Rights Day!)

Chicago's latest iteration of the Sex Workers Art Show celebrates International Sex Workers Rights Day (March 3), and foregrounds the talent of artists who have worked in the sex trades. By centering their art, labor, and lived experience, SWOP aims to counter sex-work stigma.





Trauma Bodies Birds Waiting For The Bus Agitator Gallery New Member Show

Agitator Gallery's newest members presented their first ever show & sell. Each member showcased work that was thought-provoking, irreverent, and completely unrelated.

Artists

Sarah Bell
Danielle "Deo" Owensby
Jeff Horwat
Jen Lau



APRIL 2019 POP UP



Trurute Pop Up Art Show

Presented by [GhostSkate](#), founded by Agitator member McDonald Predelus



agitatorgallery.com • [IG @agitatorgallery](https://www.instagram.com/agitatorgallery) • [FB /agitatorgallery](https://www.facebook.com/agitatorgallery)

The Steve Ediger Art System

A retrospective celebrating the life and work of Chicago artist Steve Ediger, who died in 2016. Ediger's paintings are expressions of an idiosyncratic, experimental, and thus esoteric system of painting. The body of work produced out of his system is bold and expressive. A mixture of whimsy and mystery, The Steven Ediger Art System is an immersive experience of this artist's body of work, focused on his most prolific period, between 2014-2016, with a soundtrack of his music.

This exhibit was created in close alliance with Steve's family.

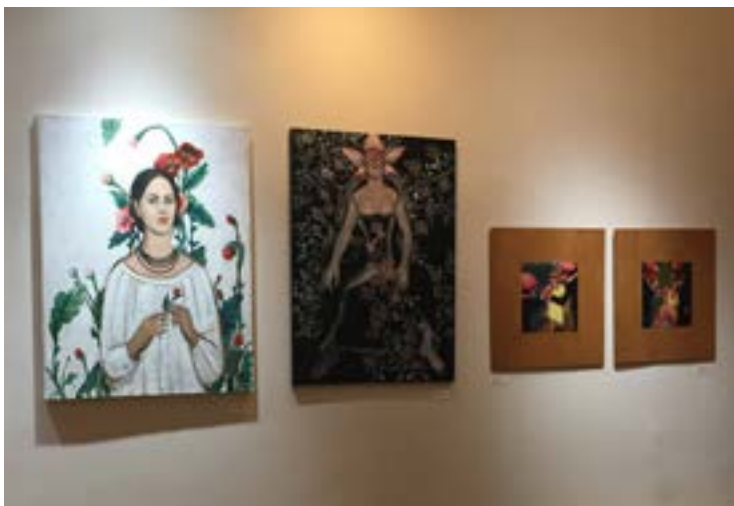


Symbolic Representations of Personal History

Six artists present their personal histories in oil and acrylic paintings.
Curated by Agitator member artist Andrea Kasprzyk.

Artists

Noël Ash
Gabriella Boros
Andrea Kasprzyk
Jonathon McKay
Kateryna Tkachenko
Xiaotong Zhao



Hard to Kill: Art by Survivors of Sexual Violence

This exhibit was inspired by conversations I had with leading curators and artists during my time as a graduate student, working on my thesis on how prevalent such abuses are in our society today. During my studies, prevalent voices in the art world dismissed my concerns or tried to steer my voice in a more vague direction. There could be many reasons for their advice, but what was consistent was how uncomfortable they were with the topic of sexual violence.

I have always believed that art could be a vehicle for awareness, so the numerous suggestions to make my work less about sexual abuse and more about generalized traumatic experiences didn't sit right with me. Sexual abuse is prevalent in our society, as 1 in 6 women, 1 in 10 men, and 1 in 5 of those in the transgender community will encounter such abuse in their lifetimes (SOURCE: rainn.org). With statistics like this that point to a larger problem, I knew my voice wasn't the only one out there, which is how "Hard to Kill" came to fruition. - Danielle Owensby, Agitator Artist / Curator



Artists

Anneasha Hogan
Ashley Giles
Azul Nogueron
Bill Davis
Carole McCurdy
Deva Suckerman
Geordi Helmick
Jana Dean
Jenna Jo Pawlicki
Jessica Brackett
Kaiden Dunn
Katina Bitsicas
Megumi Naganoma
Myah Brimmer
Nicole Foran
Oaklee Thiele
Rabia Tayyabi
Rachel Korotkin
Sara Peak Convery
Steve Smith
Tacie Jones
Ty Merton
Yvette Cummings



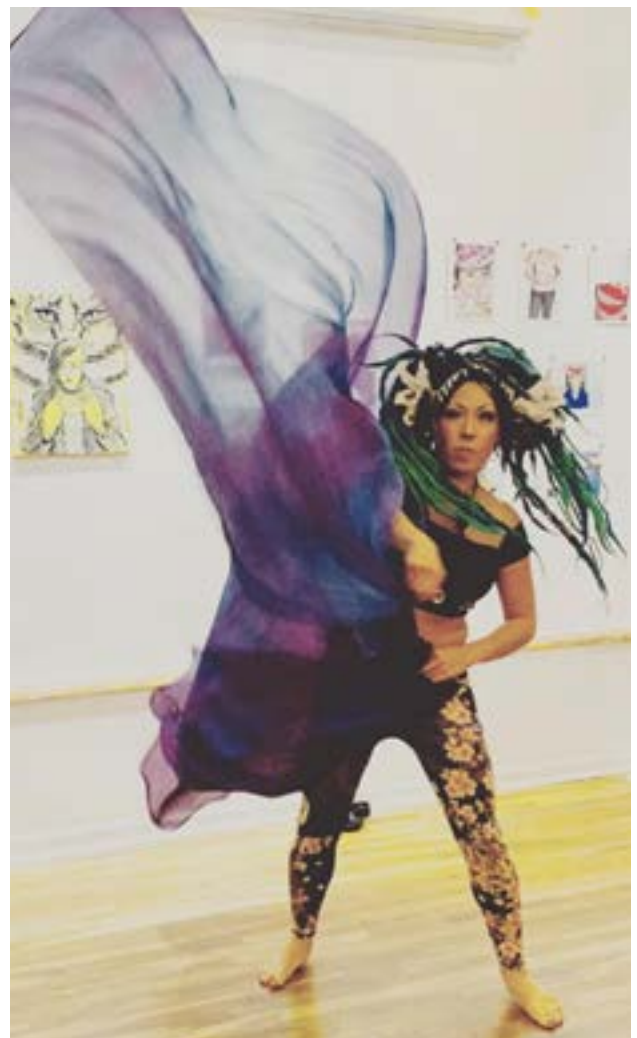
The Anti-Model Minority Show: Breaking the Myth

In the beginning of this year my grandmother passed away. Although she had lived in the United States since 1978, she had never learned to speak English fluently or drive a car, and she was okay with it. She was the cultural matriarch of our family and helped raise us from birth. She was the reason why Mandarin was our first language, why pork stew is our favorite food, and why we learned how to play mah-jong.

As the decades passed, she picked up different bits and pieces of American culture: a passion for recycling, Smarties candies, and watching her favorite show, Wheel of Fortune.

I was born and raised in the Midwest where I was one of two Asian American kids in my class. Throughout my life I have often found myself caught in between two conflicting cultural identities, *zhongguoren* or Chinese person and *waiguoren* or American person. (Ironically the word for foreigner is synonymous for American in Mandarin).

This is common among immigrants and first-generation Americans but not something that is often represented in popular culture. I wanted to give my peers a space to voice their experiences while confronting the Model Minority Myth. Simultaneously challenging the idea of what it means to be American and the definition of American culture. - Jen Lau, Agitator Artist / Curator



Artists

- Kat Liu
- Joyce Jiao
- Alice Mao
- Archangelo Crelencia
- Yi Chun (Maggie) Cheng
- Danesh Kothari
- Angel AnQi Gu
- Marqus Nguyen
- Jen Lau



Everything Has Changed: Life Altering Health Care Experiences in 21st Century USA



Pain is a cruel and brutal teacher. It makes you cautious; it makes you crave predictability. For years I put commas and periods in my life where they didn't need to be. I learned how to trick the pain, but it was like squeezing a balloon, parts expanding and parts contracting, threatening to burst. After my surgeries, I am unlearning habits of a lifetime. – Gretchen Hasse, Agitator Artist / Curator

Everything Has Changed features work by artists who have experienced — or are experiencing — life-changing health care experiences. The exhibit includes 2D work, 3D work, gallery-hosted video, and an evening of performance.



Artists

Brett Taylor
Frederick Nitsch
Mason Pott
Meagan Keating
Micah Dillman
Michael Gallagher
Patrick Wilkins
Hansen Peeler
Perry Danis
Rachel Wallis
Tanuja Jagernauth
Salvador Campos
Sara Peak Convery
Sara Sinuk
Zoë Sapienza
Chuck McNally
Brianne LaPelusa
Carole McCurdy
Jennifer-Hochgesang
Mimi Tolva
Jessica Fenlon
kinnari Vora
Sid Yiddish
Stephanie Sinuk

Immigrants to Go - Alonso Galué

[Alonso Galué Video Interview on Agitator Instagram](#)

Alonso Galue (Venezuelan, b. 1994, Chicago Based) BFA at the University of Los Andes, is a multidisciplinary artist whose experimental use of traditional painting and sculpture articulates speeches on labor, existential crisis, and totalitarianism. In his *Immigrants to Go* series, he uses clay to portray the faces of food industry workers on floating plates with actual food. As the exhibition progresses, the food rots, creating an uncomfortable situation for the observer who faces the hidden laborers.



Rostros Indigenas – Miguel Akira Mar

[Miguel Akira Mar Video Interview on Agitator Instagram](#)

Rostros Indigenas seeks to conserve and highlight the beauty and spirit that exists within the descendants of indigenous people, framing it not only for the present but for future generations to see.



Captured, Sculpted, Written - Ramin Takloo-Bighash
[Ramin Takloo Bighash Video Interview on Agitator Instagram](#)

This installation is inspired by Ramin's childhood in a fishing town on the Persian Gulf and his love of movies. This popup show features a multimedia sculpture, "The Entertainment Center", built from rope, found wood, and images of Ramin's favorite Iranian movies, set in a site-specific presentation of Iranian calligraphy. Ramin Takloo-Bighash is an Iranian artist living in Evanston. He learned Iranian calligraphy from his father and from Seyed Reza Beyt Anab as a teenager in Iran. He has lived in the US since 1995.



Figure Tuesdays Exhibit

[Artist / Curator Video Interview on Agitator Instagram](#)

A showcase of work produced at and inspired by Figure Tuesdays, Agitator's weekly figure drawing meetup.



Featuring the Work of Figure Tuesdays Artists

Michelle Cast
Archangelo Creencia
Dana Fretty
Maranda Gerla
Michelle Graves
Gretchen Hasse
Timothy Inklebarger
Andrea Kaspryk
Sue Kim
Jen Lau
Sam Park
Junad Rizki
Adrian Rockchild
Andrew Rose Vickers



First Annual Gala

[Promotional Video on Agitator Instagram](#)

The 2019 Agitator Gala Show featured work made by Agitator members. The opening reception was Bauhaus themed, with members and the public invited to attend in Bauhaus costumes.

Member Artists

Michelle Graves
Gretchen Hasse
Larry Kamphausen
Andrea Kaspyrk
Jen Lau
McDonald Predelus
Luna Rail



Lunar Performance Thing Monthly Improvisational Music and Film Showcase

The idea is simple. Present silent movies, really great ones, and accompany them with live sound tracks. Many of the movies we show were made in the first 35 years or so of filmmaking, roughly 1895 to 1930. They show the excitement of artists discovering and inventing a definitively new art form. Taking these movies, and turning them over to musicians who can breathe new life into 100-year-old works of art, is tremendously fun and at times quite astounding.

- Luna Rail, Agitator Artist / Curator



Contributors Include

Nick Alvarez
Cordoba
Void Self
Vlado Ketch with Luna Rail
Superthing
Manae Hammond
Monogamy
Alexander Adams

PROGRAMMING



Figure Tuesdays

This weekly life drawing session is open to all skill levels! We work from a wide range of models of all genders, ages, backgrounds and body types. Materials are available if you need them, and everybody is willing to share knowledge.



Art of Science

A monthly science outreach series, where professional scientists present their research topics to the general public.



Critique Night

Open to any type of artist who would like to present their work and get constructive feedback. We meet every other month.



SWOP-Chicago and Agitator Gallery Present REDLIGHT CHICAGO A Sex Worker Performance Series

September: Volume 1, December Volume 2

Featuring death-defying acts of burlesque, rhymes to blow your mind, and words of truth from Chicago's multitalented sex-working artists!



PROGRAMMING



Ghost Skate Community Paint Nights

Ghostskate's mission is to make skateboarding accessible to everyone and to help those who skateboard be stronger and safer skaters. This weekly workshop helps create that community!



Texas Two-Step Class & Workshop with Caitlin Rafferty & J.B. Duckett

Put on your boots for this weekly workshop, and come learn the basic Texas Two-Step with some spins and dips.



Manga Workshop

A collaborative workshop open to all Chicagoland high school students, this engaging and intensive program offers young artists a chance to improve their manga-art mastery.



The Bridge

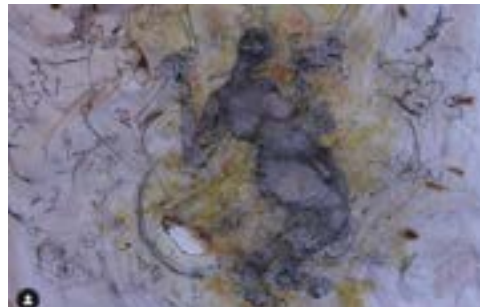
The Bridge is an exchange program for creative music between France and Chicago. Agitator is proud to have hosted Bridge performances twice, and looks forward to hosting many more in the future.



NOOK EXHIBITS



Agitator accepts open call submissions to its monthly Nook Exhibit, which is shown in conjunction with regularly programmed monthly member curated art shows. The Nook allows us to show more work, and helps expand our ever-growing network of artists



2019 Artists

Melon Ferbsebner
Max Mendez
Deva Suckerman
Klaus Pinter
Alex Puryear
Philip Lindsey
Lazaro Villarreal
Matt Kuhlman
Lya Finston
John Haverty
Olivia Hunter
Aaron Wooten
Casey Stanberry



Exhibits & Programming 2020

Nothing About Us Without Us – Chicago Recovery Alliance Benefit [Luna Rail Video Interview on Agitator Instagram](#)

Since 1991 the Chicago Recovery Alliance (CRA) has distributed clean, safe equipment for safe drug use and condoms for safe sex. They have become the largest distributor and educator on the use of free Naloxone in the midwest. They have collected data on their work and contributed to invaluable research that shows that harm reduction indisputably saves lives.

Seen in these photos is the Wall of T-Shirts. These t-shirts are sold by agencies from the US, Puerto Rico, and the UK to fund their work and bring dialogue to the public about harm reduction. The second photo is an installation shot of a Photo Voice (art / research) Project organized and led by CRA's research director, Suzanne Carlsburg-Rascich. The photos are by CRA participants who were asked to take photos illustrating questions like, "How do you experience judgment for your drug use in this community?" and "What needs to change about how the community treats you as a person who injects drugs?" These questions were developed primarily by CRA participants. Individuals were asked not to take any identifying photos so as to protect themselves and others from legal / police retaliation. – Luna Rail, Agitator Artist / Curator

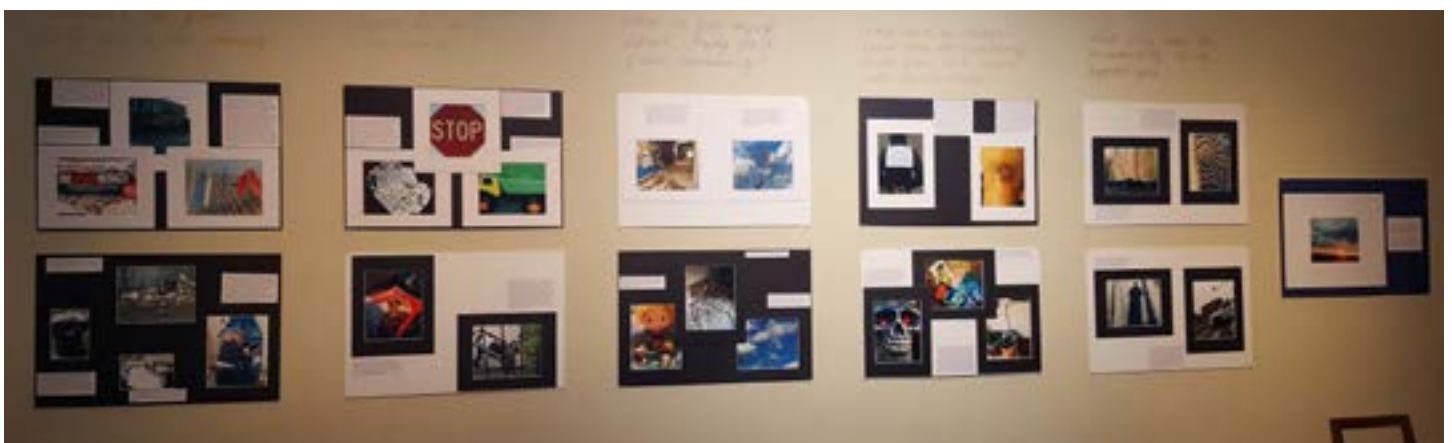
Artists

Suzanne Calsburg-Rascich
CRA Research Director, DePaul University,
School of Public Health

Nigel Brundston
Harm reduction photographer,
videographer, activist from Derby UK

James Cary
Activist and artist from Chicago

Ben Kurstin
Photographer from Chicago



I Love You to Death - Artist in Residence Jessica Brackett
[Jessica Brackett Video Interview on Agitator Instagram](#)

Jessica Brackett is a Chicago-based artist with ties in LA, Portland, and London. She works in sculpture, painting, and installation. Through her work, she seeks to falsify the familiar and elevate the mundane. Working in still life, she uses plants, insects, and water as metaphor for the human condition. She received her BFA in Painting and Art History from the Kansas City Art Institute. Her paintings can be seen throughout the US, and Asia, as well as featured 3 years in a row on Emmy-Winning hit television series Portlandia.



MARCH 2020 EXHIBIT



Sex Worker Art Show

[Kathy Rosenfeld Interview on Agitator Instagram](#)

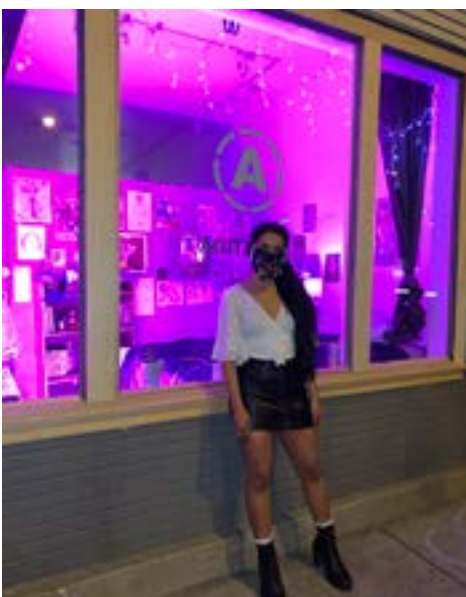
Our second annual collaboration with SWOP Chicago



Lights On - Artist in Residence Rebeca Soto

Rebeca Soto is a scorpio chicana illustrator based in Chicago. Her mixed media illustrations aim to provoke viewers by giving them visual accessibility to the authentic experiences of femme sexuality. Her figures are influenced by traditional Mexican colors and textures, decaying plant matter, and juxtaposing feelings of lust, passion, and anxiety. Using combined creative methods, Rebeca's works act as a process of mindfulness and self-care. She hopes her works can be accessible forms of conversation and education.

As our second Artist In Residence, Rebeca presented her solo show in a socially distanced window display. Earlier in her residency, she held a drawing workshop for womxn and nonbinary makers called *Babes Make*, which she continued online after Lockdown.



The Explosion is Here - John Airo and Michelle Graves Window Exhibit

A collaboration between John Airo and Agitator member artist Michelle Graves. Window exhibits were a great way to continue to safely engage the public in art during the warmer months of 2020!



AND THEN: Stories About What Happens Next [Virtual Gallery](#)

And Then is a printed book and virtual gallery of art, poems, fiction, performance, and essays about our visions of the future. What do we hope for? What do we fear? What do we think it will take to get there? All of us are thinking about changes, how they are changing us, and how they will change our future.

And Then focuses on these changes. Both the book and the virtual gallery include the work of over forty artists and writers. The participants include emerging artists, career creatives, and first-time creators. The online exhibit includes all the visual art and writing from the book, plus video selections, and audio files of the writers reading their own work.

And Then is a phrase that marks a turning point. When we hit a turning point, we may be gripped by fear; but we also yearn for the possibilities brought on by change.

Everything is in question, and speaking our truth gives it gravity. It reminds us who we are and where we are, in a time of deliberate chaos that is designed to make us forget both.

Telling our own stories means we control the narrative, and it also means we have a better chance of harnessing the turning point.

- Gretchen Hasse, Agitator Artist / Curator

Artists

Akira	Osbaldo Jimenez
Alonso Galué	Paloma Trecka
Anahi Velazquez	Ramin Takloo-Bighash
Andrea Cardinal	Richard Medina
Andrea Kaspryk	Salvador Campos
Andrew Rose Vickers	Sia Serafina
Anneasha Hogan	Sonali Kolhatkar Sophia Sanchez
Ash HG	Gretchen Hasse
Baysan Yüksel	Jae Green
Ben Novak	Joshua Mei
Betsy Arnfield	Toma Smith
Brett Taylor	Amanda Dee
Chelcie Porter	Anna Mielniczuk
Choesoui	David Pederson
Flash ABC	Hamsen Peeler
Jenny Chernansky	Jennifer Hochgesang
Juan-Carlos Perez	Kelly Hayes
Junad Rizki	Melon Fernsebner
Kenneth Andreys	Sid Yiddish
Leah Busby	Snežana Žabić
Leslie Hardie	Ami Saraiya
Monica Trinidad	Jennifer Novak
Neha Chawla	Andre Vasquez
Nico Garcia / Bob Rok	
Nicole Gonzalez	



DECEMBER 2020 EXHIBIT



Get Art / Give Back - 31 Artists in 31 days [Virtual Gallery](#)

Our December show is typically our annual Agitator Gallery gala but as you all know, this year is... different. It was a tough year for everyone, so we wanted to organize a show to fundraise for local charities while showcasing local artists.

Since we are currently without a physical space, we are scheduling daily flash sales via Instagram takeovers with a new artist each day. Instead of taking the standard 40% gallery commission we ask participants to donate at least 40% of their total sales to a nonprofit of their choice.



Artists

Luna Rail
Gretchen Hasse
Jen Lau
Andrea Kasprzyk
Josh Mei
Sarah Sutton
Tattiana Howard
Sara Thobe
Helene Smith
Steef Ciaz
Andrew Rose Vickers
Jessica Brackett
Hali Palombo
Mimi Tolva
Matt Christensen
Toni Maugeri
Eleftheria Lialios
Bill Holland
Frederich Nitsh
Julia Arredondo
P Michael ONO
& American Dreams Records
McDonald Predelus x Trurute
Michelle Graves
Akira Portraits
Mah Nu
Larry Kamphausen
Emilio Nadales
Janna Lee
Ramin Takloo-Bioghash
Kateryna Tkachenko
Tracy Kostenbader

PROGRAMMING



Virtual Figure Tuesdays

Our weekly virtual life drawing session is open to all skill levels! We work from a wide range of models of all genders, ages, backgrounds and body types. Materials are available if you need them, and everybody is willing to share knowledge.



Chicago Summer Shorts with [Film Girl Film Festival](#)

Virtual screening and talk with the directors.



COVID-TV

An Instagram artist interactive event, co-hosted by artist Juia Arredondo and Agitator Gallery.



AGITATOR
inspired gallery

IG Live Stream
Sunday, 4/19 CST



10:30am-11am

Pavement
w/ @c_rafferty

11am-12pm

Virtual Figure Drawing
w/ @mahnu.art

12pm-12:30pm

Collaging with Sarah Lewis Craft
w/ @sl.craft

12:30pm-1pm

I Literally Draw Jackie Chan Everyday
w/ @shoepaintingwizard

1pm-1:30pm

Good Mail Day with Rebecca Grace Hill
w/ @industrialgrace

1:30pm-2pm

Chicago Honkytonk Sunday Brunch
w/ @chicagohonkytonk





Exhibits & Programming 2021

APRIL 2021 EXHIBIT



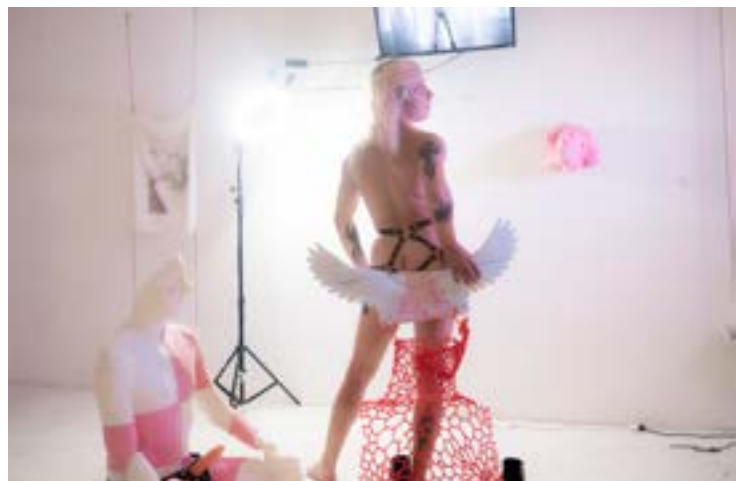
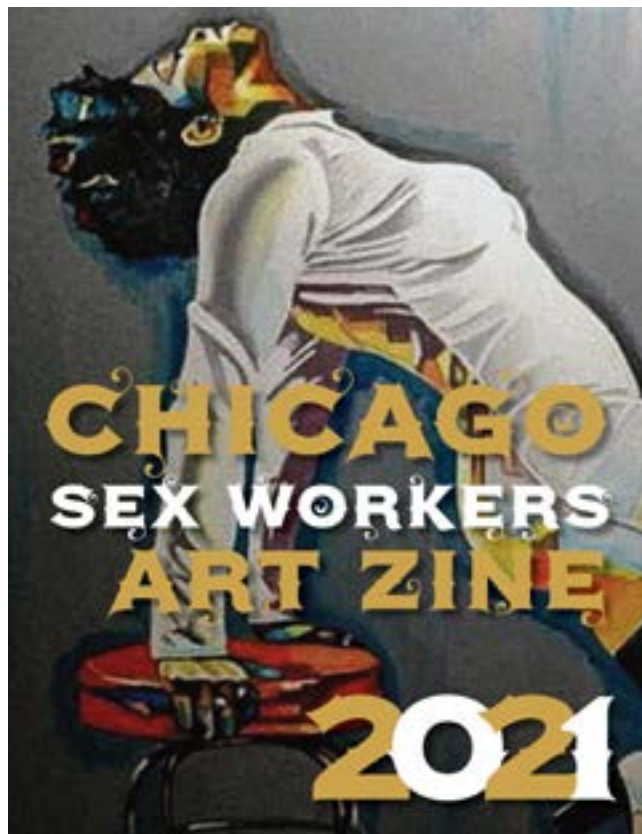
Sex Workers Art Zine and Website Third Annual Partnership with SWOP Chicago [Virtual Gallery](#)

Since our founding 15 years ago, a major component of SWOP Chicago’s mission has been to create affirming cultural spaces where local sex workers can enjoy and express ourselves, free from the violence and stigma that so often defines the rest of our lives. For most of that time, Chicago Sex Workers Art Show has been an annual highlight of the SWOP social calendar. No one anticipated that our opening on March 7, 2020 would be the last public event we threw - or that most members of our community attended - for a year and counting. Within a week, Illinois was under a stay-at-home order, Agitator had closed its space, and SWAS went virtual.

As we approached March 3, 2021 - International Sex Workers Rights Day, which the Art Show has traditionally marked - we knew we wanted to come up with ways to showcase sex-worker talent, even if that couldn’t include be an in-person event. This zine is one of the results of that brainstorm. Another is the Chicago SWAS 2021 online gallery. - Kathy Rosenfeld, SWOP Chicago

Artists

Madeline Spanier	Goddex Artemis
Lulu Bourdieu	Ava Pop
Des	Kat Savage
Chicago Sugar	





Agitator Comics!

Agitator's June exhibit will be a printed and virtual compilation of comics from creators of all skill levels. Agitator Artist / Curator Gretchen Hasse is working with the newest Agitator member, Alonso Galué, to translate the calls for entry into Spanish, and also to make bilingual copies of the final publication.



**Agitator
Comics!**
coming
June 2021

Agitator Gallery
wants your comics for our
2nd printed exhibit!
We will compile them
& put them online,
and also print them up
to send to you with love!

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
May 15, 2021



Hasse 2021