

## Related Public Programs:

### Chicago as Ground Floor: A Symposium

Explores the many paths available to emerging artists to push their practice in Chicago as well as the context and histories that make Chicago a great city for artists to live and work.

#### Panel Discussion: Chicago as School/Thursday, March 4, 6pm

Chicago-based artists share insights about their experiences and formative paths. Panelists **Rashayla Marie Brown** (PhD, NU), **Frances Lee** (MFA, U of C; Ground Floor 2018), **Vidushi Lohia** (BFA, SAIC) and **Marcelo Eli** (Hyde Park Art Center's Center Program). Moderated by Curatorial Fellow, **Gervais Marsh**.

#### Panel Discussion: Chicago as Teacher/Sunday, March 7, 3-4pm

This conversation seeks to articulate the obscure but impactful, formal or informal, networks of generosity in which Chicago artists participate. Director of Exhibitions & Residency Programs, **Allison Peters Quinn** talks with three generations of artists at Columbia College Chicago who actively pay it forward. Featured speakers include Art Center's Board Member and award-winning artist **Dawoud Bey**, *Ground Floor* artist **Jonathan Castillo**, and former Youth Art Board artist, **Tiara Coleman**.

#### Panel Discussion: Chicago as Research/Thursday, March 11, 6pm

Chicago's rich history of political organizing, activism, and experimentation is deeply intertwined with the distinct histories of the city's culturally diverse neighborhoods and communities. *Ground Floor* artist **Bun Stout**, artist and educator **Tiff Beatty** discuss how the context and history of the city influenced their practice. Moderated by **Ciera McKissack**, Public Programs Coordinator.

#### Panel Discussion: Excavating the Past and Present/Thursday, March 18, 6pm

*Ground Floor* artists **Stella Brown**, **Cecilia Beaven**, **J. Kent**, and **Percy Lam** discuss the ways in which their practices excavate the past and present to articulate personal mythologies and understand the legacy of our time. Moderated by Exhibitions and Residency Coordinator, **Mariela Acuna**

#### Screening + Q&A/ Sunday, April 4, 3-4pm

A screening of film works by *Ground Floor* artists **Kayla Anderson**, **Atefeh Farajolahzadeh**, and **Forrest Simmons** followed by a conversation and Q&A.

Many of the artworks on view are available for purchase through the Hyde Park Art Center. Pricelists are available at the front desk. If interested, contact [exhibitions@hydeparkart.org](mailto:exhibitions@hydeparkart.org).

Partial support for the exhibition is provided by:



## Hyde Park ARTCENTER

5020 South Cornell Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60615 773.324.5520 [www.hydeparkart.org](http://www.hydeparkart.org). Hyde Park Art Center is a unique resource that advances contemporary visual art in Chicago by connecting artists and communities in unexpected ways. The Art Center is funded in part by the: Alphawood Foundation; Andy Warhol Foundation for Visual Arts; a City Arts III grant from the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events; Field Foundation of Illinois; Harpo Foundation; Harper Court Arts Council; Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; The Irving Harris Foundation; The Joyce Foundation; Leo S. Guthman Fund; Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; Polk Bros. Foundation; Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust; and the generosity of people like you.

# Ground Floor

Gallery 1 & 2, Cleve Carney Gallery, and  
Jackman Goldwasser Catwalk Gallery  
February 22 - April 3, 2021



Installation view of *Ground Floor* at Hyde Park Art Center. Photography by Andi Crist,

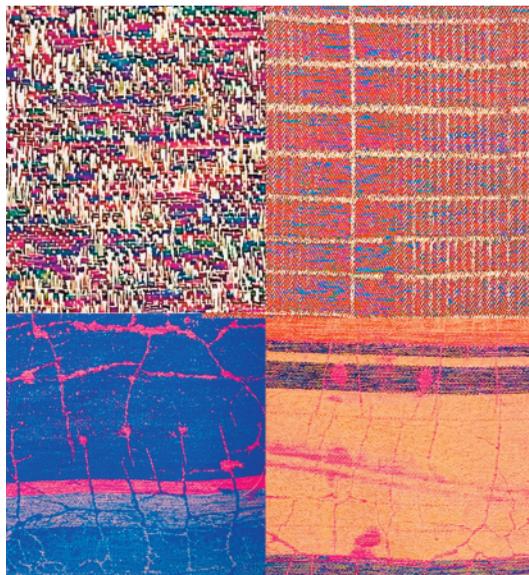
### Exhibiting Artists:

Dabin Ahn, Seomy Ahn, Kayla Anderson, Cecilia Beaven, Tamara Becerra Valdez, Leticia Bernaus, Stella Brown, Jonathan Castillo, Atefeh Farajolahzadeh, Efrat Hakimi, J. Kent, Percy Lam, Jessica Martin, Jordan Putt, Daisy Schultz, Forrest Simmons, Bun Stout, Paige Taul, Terence Wong, and Qianwen Yu

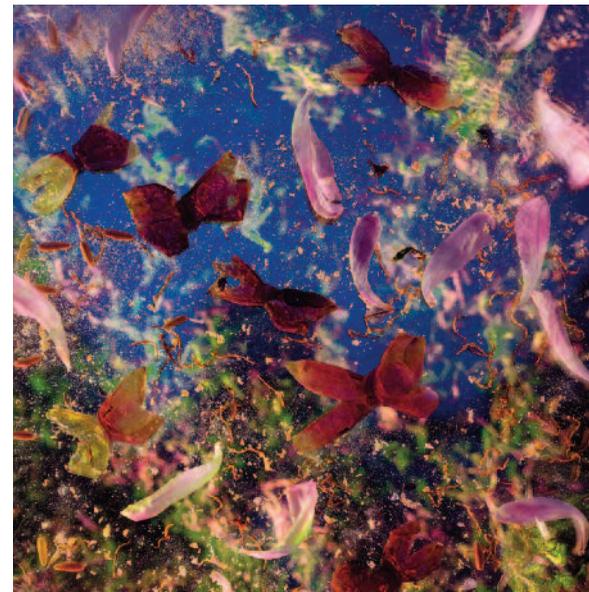


Chicago's rich history of activism, its diverse neighborhoods, dynamic art ecosystem, and outstanding academic programs offering Master of Fine Arts degrees (MFA) make the city an extraordinary place for artists to think, experiment, make, and be challenged. Every year artists from all over the world choose Chicago as a place to hone their creative practice by attending one of the city's five renowned MFA programs, which graduate roughly 300 artists annually. This year's exhibition marks the sixth iteration of the biennial exhibition, *Ground Floor* and presents the work of twenty artists who graduated from MFA programs in Chicago in 2019 and 2020. *Ground Floor* was born of the Art Center's commitment to bring attention and support to Chicago's emerging artists.

In 2020-21 the mission of supporting emerging Chicago artists gained new urgency after the outbreak of Covid-19 prevented 2020 graduating classes from presenting their thesis exhibitions and art organizations had to cancel or postpone exhibitions, residencies, and a host of other opportunities for artists. We are humbled by the opportunity to share with our public the thesis work of ten exceptional 2020 graduates for the first time. *Ground Floor* supports artists by offering a platform to exhibit their work outside of an academic setting, to have their work featured in a publication (released Spring 2021), to participate in public programs, and to engage with the dynamic audience of art lovers and makers that attend our exhibitions and programs.



Qianwen Yu, detail of *The rhythm behind the city*, 2019, Woven fabric and video installation, dimensions variable



Forrest Simmons, detail from *Reconstruction 8*, 2019, Lightbox Print, 40 x 30 inches,

The public programs that accompany the exhibition this year reflect on what the city has to offer emerging Chicago artists. It does that by highlighting the many opportunities for formal and informal education available to artists including through the Art Center's Education programs for professional artists. These programs (listed on the back) will also explore the idea of the city as a rich site for research and discuss the intergenerational network of support and mentorship that established Chicago artists have built to support the city's emerging artists.

Artists in *Ground Floor* were selected by the Art Center's Exhibition Committee, which comprises outstanding faculty, artists, and curators with relationships to graduate programs in Chicago. We are grateful to this year's committee, Sheridan Tucker Anderson, Bethany Collins, Kelli Connell, Brendan Fernandes, Kate Sierzputowski, and committee chair Dawoud Bey, for their thoughtful review of a record number of applications. Most importantly, we are grateful to all the 2020 *Ground Floor* artists for their commitment to this exhibition, for their flexibility and understanding throughout the process, and for their generosity.

Mariela Acuna  
Exhibitions and Residency Coordinator

Allison Peters Quinn  
Director of Exhibitions and Residency Programs