

**VISUAL**&

**PUBLIC** 



**Visual & Public Art Gallery** College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences California State University, Monterey Bay 100 Campus Center, Seaside, CA. 93955 **CSUMB Alumni Biennial Exhibition** May 6 – June 3, 2022

### **CSUMB** Alumni Biennial Exhibition

An exhibition of creative works across academic disciplines by CSUMB Alumni that highlights scholarly research, social engagement, community building, and analytical and creative leadership. Featuring artwork by Whitney Aguiñiga, Malachi Diaz, Lauren Finch, Matthew Floriani, Rachell Hester, Emmy McColey, Rodrigo Ojeda-Beck, Alison Thomas, Beau Thomas, Kelsey Thomas, and Ashley Vaughan.

### **Affiliated Events**

**CSUMB Alumni Panel:** *Post-Graduation Creative leadership & Scholarly Activity* A discussion about post-graduation community engagement and scholarly research that engages social responsibility, community building, and creative leadership.

**Panelists**: Lauren Finch, Matthew Floriani, Rachell Hester, and Rodrigo Ojeda-Beck **Panel Moderator**: Whitney Aguiñiga

Exhibition Dates: May 6- June 3, 2022 Opening Reception: May 6, 2022, 2022, 6-8pm

All events are free & open to the public.

### Acknowledgments:

This program of post-graduate creative works across academic disciplines was made possible by CSUMB Special Event Funding, the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, and the Visual & Public Art Department at California State University, Monterey Bay. Special thanks to Associate Professor Dionicio Mendoza of the Visual and Public Art Department for installation and curatorial support.

# Whitney Aguiñiga

Visual and Public Art Major Class of 2009

Whitney Aguiñiga is an artist, curator, and educator based in California. She earned a Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art from Mills College, a Master of Arts in Museum Studies from Johns Hopkins University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Photography and Digital Media from California State University Monterey Bay.

https://whitneyaguiniga.com





Image Credit: Whitney Aguiñiga, In Contact I & II, Silver Gelatin Print, 2020

# Malachi Diaz

Humanities & Communication Major | concentration in Journalism & Media

Class of 2021

**Malachi Diaz** is a writer and journalist working on completing his first book. He enjoys playing disc golf, ultralearning, magnet fishing, and reading. He also regularly substitutes for k-12 in the Gilroy Unified School District. Malachi started an outdoor supply company in 2021, called Mojui (mojui.co).

https://www.malachidiaz.com



**Image Credit:** Malachi Diaz, *Hills on Fire*, oil on canvas, 2021

# Lauren Finch Visual and Public Art Major Class of 2014

Lauren Finch is a social documentary photographer based in the East San Francisco Bay area. She spent her undergraduate time working in various mediums before pursuing an M.A at Goldsmiths University of London in Photography and Urban Cultures. Finch's work engages sociology through a range of projects that explore mundane objects and their stories through the exploration and documentation of social issues related to identity, home, and memory.

www.laurenfinchphoto.com



Image Credit: Lauren Finch, *Aunt,* archival pigment print, 2018 (detail)

# Matthew Floriani Visual and Public Art Major Class of 2013

Matthew Floriani uses the dynamic of the communities surrounding his site-specific pieces to create thoughtful and meaningful murals. His studio practice incorporates found materials in order to create large, comforting, and muddled installations of home as well as acrylic paint, pen, and ink to create works about memories that are often reworked into clay sculptures from 2D paintings and drawings.

https://matthewflorianiarts.com



Image Credit: Matthew Floriani, *Untitled*, acrylic on canvas, 2022

## **Rachell Hester**

Visual and Public Art Major

### Class of 2014

**Rachell Hester** is an artist, maker, and educator, and was the lead painting assistant for the *Vision Mural* (CSUMB) and painted finishing details for the CAHSS *Skylight Mural* in 2019 (CSUMB). In the summers of 2014, 2015, and 2016 she was the Gallery Technician for California State University Summer Arts and has been a participant in several juried group shows. Her first solo show was at *Open Ground Studios* in January 2016 followed by solo exhibits at the Pacific Grove Art Center in 2016 and 2019. She was an Artist-in-Residence at the American Tin Cannery through the Regional Artisans Association and received the *Local Emerging Artist Program Grant* from the Arts Council for Monterey County. Rachell is currently the Makerspace Coordinator for the CSUMB Library Makerspace.

@tripodgeorge



Image Credit: Rachell Hester, *Fictions*, mixed media on canvas, 2021 (detail)

# Emerald "Emmy" McColey

Business Administration Major | Management and International Business

Class of 2020

**Emerald McColey** is from Merced, CA., and currently resides in the Monterey area. She began her photography journey in 2020 for *Lefrak Photography* in North Lake Tahoe, taking pictures of marathon runners and mountain biking events. At a young age, Emerald was inspired by her uncle, Joshua "Yoda" Vasquez, a graffiti artist based in San Francisco who she watched create with old makeup products and colored pencils. She studied perspective, lettering, spray painting, and pencil portraits at the start of her creative career along with musical instruments. Her primary mediums are photography, pencil/charcoal, and a strong imagination.

@treestarmuse



Image Credit: Emerald McColey, *Pollination*, archival pigment print, 2021 (detail)



Image Credit: Installation View, VPA Gallery Matthew Floriani, Untitled, acrylic on canvas, 2022

Image courtesy of the VPA Gallery.



Image Credit: Installation View, VPA Gallery Matthew Floriani, Untitled, acrylic on canvas, 2022 (background) Rachell Hester, Collapsing, mixed media on canvas, 2021 (foreground)

Image courtesy of the VPA Gallery.

### Rodrigo Ojeda-Beck

Cinematic Arts and Technology Major Class of 2009

**Rodrigo Ojeda-Beck** is an award-winning filmmaker whose work spans the narrative and documentary spectrum. His films have been screened at Sundance, SXSW, Tribeca, Locarno, and CPH: DOX. Ojeda-Beck currently teaches film at California State University Monterey Bay in the Cinematic Arts and Technology department. Most recently he co-directed *The Field Trip*, which premiered at Sundance 2021, and was picked up as a New York Times Op-Doc.

@433pictures.mov

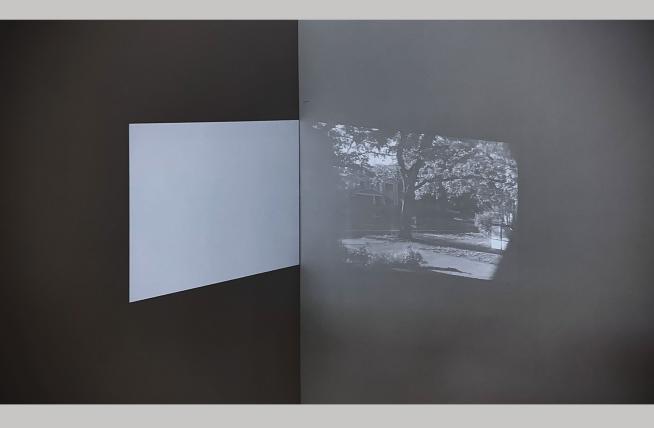


Image Credit: Rodrigo Ojeda-Beck, *409 J Street,* video still, 2022

Image courtesy of VPA Gallery.

## Alison Thomas

Visual and Public Art Major Class of 2021

Alison Thomas is an installation artist working mostly with murals and 3D art forms. She graduated from CSUMB in 2021 with a B.A. in Visual & Public Art, and now works closely with the communities in the greater California Bay Area making public art. Most recently, through her work with the Gilroy Unified School District, Alison has created the non-profit program, *Cali Ali Art*, which donates art supplies to students. Her dream is to expand *Cali Ali Art* to other local districts, giving back to the community and inspiring young minds to create art.

https://alisonclairethomasartwork.com



Image Credit: Alison Thomas, *Decomposition Crystallization*, fox skull, seashell & crystals, 2022

Image courtesy of VPA Gallery.

### Beau Thomas

Visual and Public Art Major Class of 2019

**Beau Thomas** is an artist from Morgan Hill, CA. He received his B.A. in Visual and Public Art from California State University Monterey Bay in 2019, and his Master of Fine Arts degree from Mills College in 2021. He was an Artist-in-Residence at the Monterey Regional Waste Management District Fellowship @ *Last Chance Mercantile* in 2019, and currently lives and works in the San Francisco Bay Area.

www.beauthomasart.com



Image Credit: Beau Thomas, *Moonlit Mytilus*, video still, 2020

## Kelsey Rae Thomas

Visual and Public Art Major Class of 2020

**Kelsey Rae Thomas** is a multidisciplinary artist from Morgan Hill, CA. She has a background in early childhood development, received her B.A. in Visual and Public Art from California State University Monterey Bay in 2020, and is an MFA candidate at Mills College (graduating in May 2022). Thomas was an Artist-In-Residence fellow at the Monterey Regional Waste Management District/*Last Change Mercantile* in 2020 and received the Murphy Award and Cadogan Scholarship in 2021. She currently lives and works in Oakland, CA.

#### @artistkelseyrae



Image Credit: Kelsey Rae Thomas, *Stuck in Cement*, Plaster, concrete & acrylic, 2021

## Ashley Vaughan

Visual and Public Art Major Class of 2019

Ashley Vaughan is an M.F.A. graduate student at San Jose State University and holds a B.A. in Visual and Public Art from CSUMB. Vaughan's current work explores the topic of familial post-colonial identity, the concepts of divinity, femininity, and modern identity within the modern constructs of race, class, and gender in the United States.

https://www.ashleyvaughanphotography.com



Image Credit: Ashley Vaughan, *Our Uncles*, archival pigment print, 2020 (detail)



Image Credit: Lauren Finch, *Boyfriend*, archival pigment print, 2017



Image Credit: Rachell Hester, *Collapsing*, mixed media on canvas, 2021



Image Credit: Installation View, VPA Gallery Kelsey Rae Thomas, *Confined Pressures*, plaster & paper bags, 2021

Image courtesy of the VPA Gallery.



Image Credit: Ashley Vaughan, *Our Mothers*, archival pigment print, 2020

**Visual & Public Art Gallery** College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences | build 504 California State University, Monterey Bay 100 Campus Center, Seaside, CA. 93955 Gallery Hours: 12-4pm, Monday - Friday

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