

For Immediate Release

May 8, 2018

Contact: Marielle Mervau

Curatorial Department

408-283-8155

marielle@sjica.org

The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA)
is pleased to announce the opening of three new exhibitions in June:

On Your Left; June 23 – September 16, 2018

NextNewGames; June 16 – September 16, 2018

Kathy Aoki: #WishYouWereHere; June 23 – September 9, 2018



NextNewGames and *On Your Left* are part of a South Bay arts and culture initiative entitled *New Terrains: Mobility and Migration*; a series of cross-disciplinary exhibitions and programs that explore how bodies move through social and political spaces in Silicon Valley. "New Terrains" was developed collaboratively by Art Ark Gallery, San José; San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA), the de Saisset Museum, Santa Clara University; History San José, MACLA (Movimiento de Arte y Cultural Latino Americana), San José; Montalvo Arts Center, Saratoga; Palo Alto Art Center, San José Museum of Art, San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles, The Tech Museum of Innovation, San José; Institute of the Arts and Sciences of the University of California Santa Cruz Arts Division, and ZERO1.

Kathy Aoki: #WishYouWereHere is the first ICA Sandbox Project exhibition from the 2016 call for proposals. The distinctive Sandbox Projects support emerging and mid-career artists to experiment, take risks, and develop new works that would not otherwise be realized.

The **Opening Reception** will be held on **Sunday, June 24**; Members Preview: 1-2pm; Public Reception: 2-4pm.



On Your Left

June 23 – September 16, 2018

Main Gallery

On Your Left Images: <http://bit.ly/OnYourLeftImages>

The Silicon Valley has historically paved the way as the leading force in innovation and technology. Recognized globally as the birthplace of the internet and the home computer, the region's accomplishments also include a lengthy history of bicycle innovations: the arrival of the velocipede; the early 220 yard Burbank Velodrome; and the ground-breaking formation of organized bicycle clubs. In what once was a popular bike capital, a study by Joint Venture Silicon Valley and the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition recently found that only 1.7% of Silicon Valley residents ride their bikes to work today. At the same time, the study argues that the region is poised to become a leader in bicycling.

On Your Left uses the lens of contemporary art to explore the form, function, and symbolism of the bicycle. Through sculpture, installation, video, painting, and drawings, the exhibition considers the bicycle as a meditation on the human experience, as an object of design and craft, and as a catalyst in creating a sustainable future.

Artists consider the bicycle as a way of understanding the natural world around us. **Taro Hattori** ruminates on the bicycle as an allegory for the cyclical nature of life and how we commemorate it. Taking us out for a ride is **Jenny Odell** whose work contemplates how riding a bike reformulates our experience of our surroundings. **Gale Antokal**'s ethereal drawings of bicyclists evoke a sense of memory and reflect on the passage of time. **Shawn HibmaCronan** and **Marcos Gaitan** create sculptures that exemplify the potential of the bicycle form, while **Pablo Calderon** and **Katina Huston** create works that immerse us into the inherent aesthetic quality and craft of the bicycle. **Mona Caron** and **Andrew Li** depict how bicycles change the landscape of the city. Together, **Sergio De La Torre** and **Chris Treggiari**'s work presents the bicycle as an instrument used in circulating posters concerning the future of immigration, justice, and community.

Talking Art, our public program series, engages the community with practical skill-sharing and informative lectures on topics such as bike safety and bike laws. You are invited to participate in a bicycle tour along the Guadalupe River with artist Jenny Odell on July 15th. There will be concentrated times for visitors to contribute to the work of Hattori and create posters with De La Torre and Treggiari's sculpture.

On Your Left is supported in part by the ICA Director's Circle Members and a program grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.



NextNewGames

June 16 – September 16, 2018

Focus Gallery

NextNewGames Images: <http://bit.ly/NextNewGamesImages>

When playing a board game or video game, one might experience a range of emotions, from elation when advancing towards a finish line, to a sense of gratification from beating a competitor, to a feeling of anger when your strategy goes awry. Immersing wholeheartedly into the rules and experiences of play is what Dutch historian and play theorist Johan Huizinga refers to as the “magic circle,” a zone where players temporarily suspend disbelief and adopt the qualities of the game space, disconnecting from the realities of the everyday world. Games often provide a moment of respite from the “real world” and allow the player to escape into a fantasy.

The eight artists in *NextNewGames* contemplate the affect of creating work within this alternative space. The set of board games, video pieces, and new media works consider our current socio-, politico-, and cultural environment, creating a porous relationship between the imaginary land of the game space and that of the real world.

Characterizing the art world with an air of parody are works by Sioux City-based artist **Charles Bass** who developed a series of free, participatory games, which comment on the quirks of the opaque art world.

COLL.EO (San Francisco- and Milan-based collaborative Colleen Flaherty and Matteo Bittanti) re-enact seminal 1960-70s contemporary art performances and interventions in “Liberty City,” through the action and adventure game *Grand Theft Auto*.

NextNewGames artists also invite players to embody different perspectives through single- and multi-player games. **Lark VCR** and **Porpentine Charity Heartscape’s** elaborate online game invites players to treat their trauma as if it were a virtual pet. Colorado-based artist **Rafael Fajardo** presents two contrasting games that simulate the realities of crossing the US-Mexico border at El Paso-Ciudad Juarez. **Sam Vernon** engages local community members in a game of hangman and creates a visually cacophonous installation with the resulting documentation from this age-old game. Considering the relationship of communities today and in the future, Berkeley-based artist **Asma Kazmi** constructs a hypnotic, sensorial experience of the religious site of *Makkah* and documents the rapid changes to the sacred site. San Francisco-based artist **Scott Kildall** questions what it might mean for the moon to colonize the earth in his site-specific scavenger hunt at the ICA.

Artists in the show move away from the dichotomy of winning or losing. They collectively subvert and interrupt the modes of operating within a game while reflecting on how these game spheres serve as mirrors to our current society: how do we think about cooperation and negotiation? What does it mean to lose or win? Where are points of resolution and conflict? What is your next move? *NextNewGames* is part of the ICA’s biennial exhibition program, *NextNew*, which presents work of emerging artists and/or emerging art practices.

NextNewGames is supported in part by the ICA Members.



Kathy Aoki: #WishYouWereHere

June 23 – September 9, 2018

Cardinale Project Room and Off Center Gallery

Kathy Aoki: #WishYouWereHere Images: <http://bit.ly/KathyAokiImages>

With her iconic pink bow, anthropomorphic cat figure, and set of exactly six whiskers, it is hard to not recognize Hello Kitty when you see her. The ever cute and wildly popular Sanrio character can be found on almost any consumer product, including notebooks, lunch boxes, shoes, jewelry, bedspreads, etc. According to the Santa Clara-based artist and historian

Kathy Aoki, the Hello Kitty craze and fandom has only escalated over the years, so much so that in 2007 her likeness was carved atop a mountain region and the *Hello Kitty Monument* was born.

Unfortunately, in 2011, the Monument was demolished due to an excavation of precious minerals that existed within the mountainside. However, thanks to the work and dedicated efforts of Aoki, the memory of the monument lives on for generations to come. Aoki pays homage to the cute, iconic figure and transforms the ICA into the home of a larger-than-life diorama of the monument. In addition, the diorama serves as a prime location for a perfect selfie. Make your way to the ICA to take a photo with the diorama—it's almost as if you were there! Viewers are invited to check-in at the monument and contribute their portraits to the online archive. The *Hello Kitty Monument Diorama* and *Visitor Center* will host audio interviews, video, an interactive map, and artifacts that inform guests about the legacy of the monument.

Referring to herself as a “sneaky feminist,” Aoki uses humor, pattern and color to create works that critique gender, media, and politics. She received her BFA from University of California, Berkeley, and an MFA in Printmaking at Washington University in St. Louis. Aoki's awards include fellowships from Kala Art Institute, the MacDowell Colony, Headlands Center for the Arts, Djerassi Resident Artists Program, Val Paraiso and Frans Masereel Centrum. Her work can be found in major collections across the United States including the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art, SFMoMA, the Harvard University Art Museums, and the New York Public Library. Currently, Aoki is an Associate Professor of Studio Art and the Chair of the Department of Art and Art History at Santa Clara University.

Kathy Aoki: *Hello Kitty Monument* is supported by a grant from The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and SVCCreates.

Opening Reception

Sunday, **June 24**

Members preview: 1pm-2pm

Public reception: 2pm-4pm

The reception is open and free to the public from 2-4pm. ICA members are invited from 1-2pm. Participating artists will be in attendance.

Talking Art

Conversations, workshops, panel discussions and artist professional development programs. Open to the public. Ticketed events.

ICA Members: Free admission to select Talking Art events

Non Members: \$10

Students: Free

Sunday, **July 15**: *Jenny Odell Guadalupe River Bike Tour*; 1 PM

Saturday, **August 4**: *On Your Left Bike Boogie*; 11- 4PM

Sunday, **August 26**- *Kathy Aoki: #WishYouWereHere*; 3-4PM

Sunday, **August 12**: *Artist Portfolio Reviews*: 10am- 3pm / Registration begins 10 am on Tuesday, July 17
In this annual artist professional development program, leading curators, art dealers, and educators provide expert advice during portfolio critiques. Each artist participant will have the opportunity to meet with two reviewers for 20 minutes each (chosen during registration).

ICA Live!

Presented during South First Fridays, *ICA Live!* explores the role of performance art in contemporary society. Free and open to the public.

Friday, **August 3**: *Frau Fiber* in collaboration with San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles

Friday, **September 7**, Kathy Aoki

Images:

Image courtesy of **Gale Antokal**

Image courtesy of **COLL.EO**

Image courtesy of **Kathy Aoki**

Image courtesy of **Taro Hattori**

Image courtesy of **Lark VCR and Porpentine Charity Heartscape**

Image courtesy of **Kathy Aoki**