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***Notions of Place* examines the complexity of inhabited spaces as metaphors of exchange between nature and human action**

On view April 15th – June 17th, 2023

San Pedro, CA - Angels Gate Cultural Center (AGCC) is pleased to present a new contemporary art exhibition, ***Notions of Place***. The exhibition opens with a **public reception on Saturday, April 15th from 3pm – 5pm**. Guest curated by Lauren Kasmer, *Notions of Place* examines the complexity of inhabited spaces, as they create metaphors of exchange between nature and human action. The exhibition closes on June 17th, with a curator-led artist talk in the gallery at 2:30pm.

Notions of Place includes works by Hilary Baker, Natalie M. Godinez, Kio Griffith, Flora Kao, Lauren Kasmer, LaRissa Rogers, Jenny Yurshansky, and HK Zamani. Drawing on dreams, memories, and the spaces in between, the works in *Notions of Place* disintegrate commonly held social views that have acted as fences around our homes. Each of the artists in the exhibition articulate different facets of what we call place. Place can be a refuge, a home holding our values and dreams in safe harbor. It can also be defined by a border or a wall holding us back from a new life. In ways that are both spiritual and physical, *Notions of Place* explores the contours of the artist's experience of the world.

Lauren Kasmer is a multi-disciplinary artist who has worked extensively in photography, textiles, installation and video. She has also curated shows in galleries and in multiple alternative spaces. She incorporates her photographs into digitally printed sensuous wearable art that acts as an element in each of her installation/performance projects and video works over the last ten years.

Hilary Baker's paintings document California's rural landscape through depictions of its solitary structures and native wildlife. Her birch slice painting series are reminiscent of the souvenirs travelers once purchased as mementos of their road trips. Baker's works aim to highlight the relationship between humanity and the wild landscape, in an effort to encourage us to preserve our natural world.

Natalie M. Godinez's work explores her experience as a transborder dweller and immigrant mother. Through the work, she reflects on her role as a cultural maker and keeper, and on her dual identities as both an immigrant and citizen, Mexican and Mexican-American. Her work aims to be a tool for conversations about shared experiences, the possibilities of our imaginations, and our desires to create change in the world.

Kio Griffith works across themes of social issues, geopolitics, and migrating cultures, through multimodal, craft and technology-based works. His media includes graphic design, sound and video, performance, coding, text, installation and publishing. His work in *Notions of Place* reflects on the personal, a reaction to the challenges of parenthood, it traces shadows of an unascertainable time.

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Flora Kao's *Coastline* features oversize rubbings of White Point Beach in San Pedro, exploring touch, bodily knowledge, memory, mapping, and the meaning of place. In mapping presence and absence, Kao meditates on memory, mortality, displacement, and decay. Hovering between restraint and collapse, her installations seek to anchor moments of intense emotion through repeated action.

LaRissa Rogers' works often ask the question, *who and what survives?* Rogers simultaneously engages violence and care as co-constructive forces that structure Black life. By using materials that reference colonial histories, she re-contextualizes them to grapple with the entanglements of belonging and fugitivity, beauty and horror, life and death, opacity and transparency, and care and resistance.

Jenny Yurshansky's practice is deeply informed by being a refugee, born stateless to parents fleeing from Soviet-era Moldova. Through a research-based approach, she explores the trauma of displacement, interrogating notions of belonging and otherness within the frames of landscape, historical documents, and social constructs. Formally, this manifests as absence, loss, or erasure.

HK Zamani is a Terran-Iran born artist, currently based in Los Angeles, California. His works often allow for an unpredictable shifting of possibilities in dialogue between painting and sculpture. Zamani's works mirror through their juxtapositions the cultural duality and overlap the artist brings to his work.

More information about the artists and full curatorial statement is available on our [website](#).

The galleries will also feature **Homesitē**, an ongoing participatory work by Joyce Dallal and Lauren Kasmer. Consisting of a series of structures emblematic of Los Angeles landscape and architecture, the installation reflects on the city as both home and origin. The community can participate in Homesitē Recipe Exchange on the first floor of the gallery by sharing a recipe, memory, or story about a dish that means home. A Homesitē Culinary Performance will take place at AGCC on May 13th.

Notions of Place opens in concurrence with [Open Studios Day](#) at AGCC on April 15th, on view through June 17th, 2023, with open gallery hours Thursdays – Saturdays from 10am to 4pm. More information about the exhibition and programming events can be found at [angelsgateart.org](#).

This exhibition is supported by the Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles and the Pasadena Art Alliance. Additional support for the AGCC exhibitions program provided by City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, Perenchio Foundation, The Ahmanson Foundation, Norris Foundation, the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation and the California Natural Resources Agency for the Museum Grant Program under the California Cultural and Historical Endowment.

About Angels Gate Cultural Center

Angels Gate Cultural Center (AGCC) emerged from a group of San Pedro artists in the 1970s that created art studios and exhibition space within the WWII era army barracks of Angels Gate Park near the Port of Los Angeles. Today, AGCC hosts over 50 artist studios in addition to a variety of programs to engage the diverse communities of the Los Angeles Harbor region, including arts education in local schools, community classes, cultural events, and exhibitions of contemporary art. More information about AGCC is available at [angelsgateart.org](#).

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