

Toward Forward

Curated by Olivia DeCapri, Kendall Jacob & Kaila Parrish
May 21 — July 14, 2021

Amanda Ba
Amy Bravo
Cielo Felix-Hernandez
Alisa Gorshenina
Hojan
Kayla Taylor

“It matters what matters we use to think other matters with; it matters what stories we tell to tell other stories with; it matters what knots knot knots, what thoughts think thoughts, what descriptions describe descriptions, what ties tie ties. It matters what stories make worlds, what worlds make stories.”

– Donna Haraway, *Staying with the Trouble*

How does artwork of the present reframe the past? And how can it realize possibilities of a new future? A paradigm shift happens over an extended timeline, where many occurrences, thoughts, and actions culminate into a reimagined future. The artists featured in *Toward Forward* are building bridges that cross into these new horizons, in which all perspectives are interconnected within the tangle of living.

Toward Forward adopts the language of a map. As the viewer travels through the show, they can follow any unique path of their choosing. Like spiders' webs, these pictorial balancing acts become stabilized through their interconnectedness. The viewer, able to enter at any point, finds their own narrative within the show, which consequently subverts a hierarchical, controlled experience. We have built a structure, but we have tried to build one that gives agency back to the viewer. There is no beginning or end. We place the materials into the viewer's hands to be shaped into infinite stories.

These works are inquiries into the framework of time, into the stories we tell ourselves and that we are told about ourselves. **Cielo Felix-Hernandez** cultivates safe spaces within her work to ponder identity, family, and change. She is inspired by a plantain's transition from green to ripe, or the dreamy colors of aging photographs that have been archived and preserved by the caring matriarchs in her family. **Amy Bravo** cuts, pastes, turns, flips, and layers figures, language, and landscapes to create a utopian refuge. In this place, conflicting identities and symbols exist in harmony. In the context of race and queer identity, **Amanda Ba** notes and pokes fun at how humans project stories onto non-human beings, specifically dogs, pointing out the hierarchies that shape our relationships. The characters in **Hojan's** paintings act as a medium for the viewer to touch base with humanity's fears, joys, and sorrows. The mundane becomes psychological, frozen in time. **Kayla Taylor** venerates the landscape and dissolves ideas that exclude humans from nature. They reframe catastrophic change as opportunity with indeterminate outcomes. **Alisa Gorshenina** sews a world of interconnected myths that exist inside of her. As she embodies creatures and fantastical entities, her world expands.

This gathering of artists reminds us that storytelling is a potent self-spell, the wielding of which can allow us to be part of the reciprocal turning wheel of creation and creator.

Toward Forward — Checklist



Amanda Ba
My Beast, All Mine
2021
oil on canvas
100 x 100 cm



Amanda Ba
Bitch and Bull
2021
oil on canvas
100 x 100 cm



Amanda Ba
狗女人放狗屁 / Dog Woman Releasing Dog Fart / The Bitch is Non-sense
2021
oil on canvas
100 x 100 cm



Amanda Ba
Running on All Fours Towards the Future
2021
oil on canvas
100 x 100 cm



Amy Bravo
Vamos A Cosechar
2021
acrylic, graphite, wax pastel and found fabric on unstretched canvas
97.5" x 57"



Amy Bravo
Meeting at the Watering Hole
2020
acrylic and wax pastel on canvas
78" x 100"



Amy Bravo
Santera
2020
acrylic and wax pastel on canvas
57" x 70"



Cielo Felix-Hernandez
soñé de los ochenta
2021
oil on canvas, satin
25.5" x 30.5"



Cielo Felix-Hernandez
te espero aqui
2021
oil on canvas, wood
18" x 24"



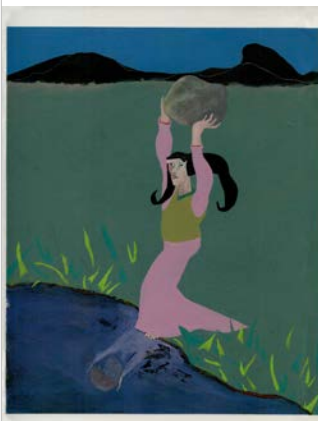
Alisa Gorshenina
Digital photo from the series "Huarealism"
2021



Alisa Gorshenina
Digital photo from the series "Huarealism"
2021



Alisa Gorshenina
Digital photo from the series "Huarealism"
2020



Hojan
A Load Off Your Mind
2021
acrylic and pencil on paper
12" x 9"



Hojan
The Truman Show
2021
acrylic, oil pastel, and pencil on paper
9" x 12"



Hojan
Self Portrait Work in Progress
2021
acrylic and pencil on paper
12" x 9"



Hojan
Shout to the Mountain
2019
acrylic on canvas
78" x 64"



Kayla Taylor

Wetland Fountain

2020

paper mâché, paper clay, tin foil, moldable plastic, acrylic paint, aquarium tubing

36" x 24"



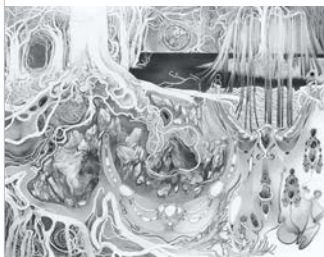
Kayla Taylor

Hallway 1

2019

paper mâché, found wood, straws, wood, paper clay, acrylic paint

36" x 48"



Kayla Taylor

Winter Woods

2020

graphite

24" x 18"