

Artist Bios

Inga Adda is an artist from Rockville, MD. She received her BFA in Fiber from the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) in Baltimore in 2020. In 2022 she participated in the *Ós Residency* at the Icelandic Textile Center in Blönduós, Iceland and the *La Baldi* Cultivate residency in Montegiovi, Italy. Inga works as the Marketing and Operations coordinator for the James Renwick Alliance for Craft (JRACraft) in Washington, DC.

Benedetta Castrioto is a project manager and curator with a passion for multidisciplinary projects. Interested in institutional and social critique, her research and work has been concerned with artistic and cultural production as praxis. In particular, she focuses on the intersection between social and environmental justice, and their incorporation in institutional practice and artistic process. She was previously the program manager for Zoma Museum in Addis Ababa, and has worked with organizations in Ethiopia, Italy, Turkey and the UK as an advisor on public programs and the execution of site-specific works. She holds an MA in Arts and Cultural Enterprise from Central Saint Martins and an MSc in Environment and Development from the London School of Economics.

Maggie Gourlay works in screen printing and paper making to create both installation and two-dimensional work that explores the intersection of the natural world and domestic space. She is a recipient of DC Arts and Humanities Council art grants and other awards, and has had numerous solo and group shows with her work in several public and private collections. Gourlay is a member of the artist collectives Sparkplug--sponsored by DC Arts Center--and Cultivate Projects, a platform for a contemporary redefinition of landscape. Gourlay attended MICA and received her MFA in studio art from Towson University where she received a Graduate Art Department Fellowship. Her interest in environmental issues has led her to researching natural dyes and the pigments derived from them. As a medium in her artwork these nature-based materials constitute a formal expression of conceptual ideas regarding nature. Gourlay is represented in Maryland by Adah Rose Gallery.

Susan Main is a multi-disciplinary artist who uses systematic and chance explorations of landscape, light, and language to examine the wildness of attention and perception. She is the founder of Cultivate Projects, a platform that brings together an evolving collection of artists driven by investigations of land, place, and *the commons*. Her practice spans a broad range of media and approaches including video, drawing, painting, photography,

documentation, installation, walking, waiting, and measurement. Main has exhibited locally, nationally, and internationally. She lives and works in the Washington, D.C. metro area, Montana, and Italy.

Murat Cem Mengüç is an artist, writer and historian whose works appeared in solo shows, group exhibitions and numerous publications. He is the founder of Studio Teleocene which is dedicated to the study of art and environment and a member of the Cultivate Projects, a platform for a contemporary redefinition of landscape. He lives and grows food in North Potomac, Maryland, at the intersection of the Potomac River and the Seneca Trail, the ancestral home of the Piscataway Indian confederacy.

Louisa Neill is a multidisciplinary artist interested in the overlap and evolution of structures; natural, built, social, economic, time-based, micro, and macro. She enjoys constructive discussion related to the human condition and digging into questions that arise from daily life. Within her reflections on intent vs. impact, our collective future, and actions that matter, she believes that small, individual choices count. Combining her drive for communication of concepts through art-practice and the interaction inherent to functionality is a primary interest in her creative activity. Louisa holds a B.F.A from Alfred University College of Ceramics, an M.A. from Maryland Institute College of Art and is currently pursuing an M.Arch degree at the University of Maryland. She lives in N.E. Washington D.C.

Kevin C. Pyle is the author/illustrator of numerous graphic novels and non-fiction comics. He also makes art, videos and performances that grow out of the practice of drawing and visual story-telling. He has had his work presented or exhibited at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, Mass MOCA, and numerous gallery settings. He collaborated with the scholar McKenzie Wark on a series of graphic essays on the Situationist International which were published by Verso Books and have been presented at the Conflux psychogeography convention and MoMA PS1. In 2015 Kevin started one of his current graphic projects, *Boatfire*, a series of graphic essays that draw upon cultural artefacts of mortality and personal history to investigate how death and art intersect. Recently these concerns with the relationship of art and mourning have found expression in post-human landscapes and graphic essays created through the act of walking in abandoned and degraded sites. His graphic essays can be seen frequently in the *L.A. Times*, *the Evergreen Review* and *World War3 illustrated*.

Gabriel Soto (b. El Salvador, 1993) is a painter with an interest in vintage imagery, philosophy, science, and esotericism. He graduated from The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts with a BFA where he trained in figurative and representational art. Gabriel is a current recipient of the Artists' Grant from the Maryland State Arts Council. His work has been shown in several exhibits in Maryland, DC, as well as the Midwest and in virtual gallery spaces. Primarily focused on classical painting and surreal imagery, Gabriel is currently based out of the Washington DC area, where he resides as a DACA recipient.