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PERIPHERAL VISIONS

Vision and Voice: Reflections of Immigrant Artists in California

Inaugural Exhibition by
Curator-In-Residence
Genevieve Hastings

November 30 – December 21, 2017

Opening Reception: Friday, December 1, 6-8pm

Artist Talk at Chandra Cerrito Contemporary, Saturday, December 9, 4pm

Oakland, CA - Chandra Cerrito Contemporary is pleased to announce the first curator-in-residence and inaugural exhibition of the Peripheral Visions program. Hastings' *Vision and Voice: Reflections of Immigrant Artists in California* features the work of six extraordinary artists from around the globe.

When he was a young man Vladimir Nabokov left behind his country, his ancestral home, his friends and the upper class life of a noble family; forced into exile after the assassination of his father by the Bolsheviks. He came to America, became a citizen and started again from nothing. As so many do. Here he wrote his best novels and rose to prominence as one of the 20th century's greatest writers. Had his father lived, had Vladimir stayed in Russia on his family's estate and never experienced heartbreak or exile as a commoner in America, he may not have produced some of the best novels of the 20th century.

Each of the six artists in this exhibition has forged a way from distant (or not so distant) lands. Coming from happy homes or homes fraught with turmoil, to escape hardship or to explore a place unfamiliar, they came to embrace connections in a "far away" life. Like Nabokov the work of each of these artists has taken shape in the forge of his or her unique immigrant experience.

Pantea Karimi (born in Shiraz, Iran, lives in San Jose) explores her obsession with early scientific manuscripts of the Persian, Arab and European traditions. **Takeshi Moro** (born in Fukaya, Japan, lives in Santa Clara) uses video to provide insight into the internal and external lives of two men living in Finland—one a refugee from Iraq and the other a member of the local government. **Jung Ran Bae** (born in Seoul, South Korea, lives in Berkeley) is a sculptor and ceramic artist whose work explores the crossing of a sea in both the literal and figurative senses.

Anna Larina (born in Moscow, Russia, lives in North Hollywood) creates intimate color photographs of her former Moscow. Her images are haunting and hold vigil for a memory steeped in desire yet tainted with the bitter reality of displacement. **Xiaoxe Xie** (born in Guangdong Province, China, lives in Palo Alto) creates beautifully detailed large-scale paintings that explore the dissemination in Chinese and American culture focusing on print media. **Guillermo Galindo** (born in Mexico City, Mexico, lives in Oakland) is a mixed media

artist who synthesizes cultures and creates short circuits that enable a new language of sound, image and sculpture that ignite a sense of humor.

Genevieve Hastings has interviewed each artist and recorded stories and insights into their lives and experiences. An audio station for visitors is set up to hear their related stories in conversation with the curator. These conversations are about their experiences in life, their relationship to their work and families and their lives as artists. Two public events, including an opening reception and an artist talk moderated by Genevieve Hastings will offer opportunities for community engagement and dialogue.

About the Curator

Genevieve Hastings is the Director of the Art Ark Gallery in San Jose, CA. She is also a multimedia installation artist. She received her MFA at San Francisco State University in 2014. Past exhibitions include those at the San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History, Zer01 International Biennial, the San Jose ICA, the Center for Photographic Arts in Carmel and the *Murphy Cadogan Award* exhibition at SomArts in San Francisco. She has also received the Leigh Weimer's Award, the Fleishhacker Foundation Grant, and she worked with the City of San Jose on a Public Art Project.

About the Peripheral Visions

Peripheral Visions is an artist- or curator-in-residence program at Chandra Cerrito Contemporary, a contemporary art gallery. Its mission is to provide an Oakland-based platform for artists and curators of wide-ranging backgrounds and outlooks to present projects that: 1) create bridges—encourage connection and communication among diverse groups, or 2) expand the view—broaden perspectives on art and the human experience. Peripheral Visions aims to present meaningful and compelling creative works incorporating visual art that utilize the gallery's physical space and engage its community.

In this time of political, economic, and cultural polarization on a national and regional scale, art can prompt genuine communication, empathy, and insight required for a harmonious

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future. Art can enable collaboration and a sense of shared experience between people despite our perceived differences. It may offer new means of problem solving that bypass traditional approaches. While art may be an important key to the health of our society, the Bay Area's current real estate climate poses significant challenges to the sustainability of art venues. Peripheral Visions provides a place in Oakland for creative voices to be heard at this critical time



Xiaoze Xie
Chinese Library No. 62, 2017,
oil on linen

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Chandra Cerrito Contemporary

480 23rd Street, Oakland, CA 94612

www.chandracerittocontemporary.com

Hours: Thursday–Saturday 12–6 pm, First Fridays until 8pm, and by appointment

Free and open to the public

High-resolution images are available by contacting:

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