

# HUDSON VALLEY MOCA

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**For Immediate Release**

## **.edu: Art Faculty of the Hudson Valley**

**On View:** March 14 - April 30, 2020

**Opening Reception:** Saturday, March 14, 4 - 7 PM



Josette Urso, *Amber Sun*, 2019

**PEEKSKILL, NY (January 7, 2019):** “The diversity and strength of the works by artist educators working in the Hudson Valley was not surprising given our proximity to NYC. I thoroughly enjoyed and learned from the experience,” says Amy Lipton, Co-director, ecoartspace.

These days, the term “influencer” conjures an image of a young Instagrammer, smiling with products that will change your life, lounging in

an exotic location, or demonstrating the latest workout. The term has become synonymous with notions of lifestyle, spread through digital platforms and absorbed by the masses who sing their praises in the form of likes and comments. But perhaps we can consider this term to acknowledge those who truly influence us beyond the screen: the educator.

Hudson Valley MOCA would like to shine light on the influencers of the classroom whose own practice lends a critical perspective on the current state of affairs in contemporary art, and an indication of what is yet to come. **.edu: Art Faculty of the Hudson Valley** features 14 art faculty from 8 higher-education institutions in the Hudson Valley. The artists chosen represent a survey of artistic practice within art education and have been selected by three jurors: art critic and writer Susan Hodara, independent curator Amy Lipton, and contemporary art collector Sue Stoffel. The resulting group of artists featured in **.edu** will stimulate discussion around a variety of themes and demonstrate how impactful this region is in creating powerful art. These influencers are using their own experiences and artwork to shape the Hudson Valley.

“As a participant in the jurying process, I was delighted by the level of skill and creativity in artists working and teaching throughout the Hudson Valley,” says art writer Susan Hodara. “In my view, the resulting **.edu** exhibition is filled with works that are moving, surprising and fun.”

The exhibition will feature an eclectic mix of two-dimensional and three-dimensional works, including video and installation, ranging from intimate to monumental in scale. The artists explore themes that range from climate change and social justice to abstraction and representation. Interactive works such as Nicole Maloof’s video will ask its viewers absurd questions like “What color is a banana?” while Aaron Krauch’s *Indestructible Artifacts* will tell you “your face feels like home” while you sip from its lip.

“It was an honor in jurying this important show of artists affiliated with Hudson Valley college and universities,” says collector Sue Stoffel. “We were a diverse group, which added to the quality of our time together and to the judgements each brought to the conversation. After a full day of debate, I feel we have chosen a broad and rather interesting group of artists and their recent output.”

**Featured Artists:** Nancy Bowen (Purchase College), Bryan Czibesz (SUNY New Paltz), Donise English (Marist), Glen Fogel (Bard), Aaron Krach (Purchase College), Nicole Maloof (Sarah Lawrence College), Itty S. Neuhaus (SUNY New Paltz), John O’Connor (Sarah Lawrence College), Rachel Owens (Purchase College), Janine Polak (Purchase College),

Gina Ruggeri (Vassar), Christina Tenaglia (Vassar), Josette Urso (WCC - White Plains), Randy Williams (Manhattanville)

## **Programs:**

### **Saturday, April 4, 6 PM - Talkback with Josette Urso and Susan Hodara**

Juror Susan Hodara engages in conversation with artist Josette Urso over artistic practice, teaching in higher-education, and the Hudson Valley art scene. Urso received her MFA / Painting from the University of South Florida in Tampa and currently works in Brooklyn.

### **Saturday, April 18, 1 PM - Demonstration and Talk with Bryan Czibesz**

Artist Bryan Czibesz demonstrates his process of utilizing 3D printing in ceramic artwork. Bryan earned his MFA from San Diego State University and has exhibited, lectured, and taught workshops throughout the United States and internationally. His artwork is an exploration and intersection between technology and human physicality. This event is run concurrently with Art Industry Media, Peekskill, NY's city-wide multimedia event.

### **Thursday, April 30, 6 PM - Talkback with Itty Neuhaus and Amy Lipton**

Juror Amy Lipton joins in conversation with artist Itty Neuhaus over artistic practice, teaching in higher-education, and the Hudson Valley art scene. Itty Neuhaus is Associate Professor of Art at SUNY New Paltz; awards include the Fulbright Arctic Initiative in 2015 in which she worked with robotics engineers measuring the deterioration of Arctic icebergs.

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**Hudson Valley MOCA**, located in Peekskill, NY, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts and education center dedicated to the enrichment of communities in the Hudson Valley and Peekskill, New York, through contemporary art exhibitions, arts education programs, artist residencies and lectures, and the Peekskill Project, our bi-annual international art festival.

**Public Information:** Hudson Valley MOCA, 1701 Main Street, PO Box 209, Peekskill, NY 10566, (914) 788-0100, hudsonvalleymoca.org. Hours, beginning October 13: Friday, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday, 12:00-6:00 p.m. Museum Admission: \$10 adults; \$5 Peekskill residents, seniors, students, children over 8; free for members and children 8 and under.

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