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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Exhibition at Lehman College Art Gallery
Homecoming: Lehman College Graduate Art Programs Alumni, 2012 – 2022

On View, September 6 – 23, 2023

Opening Reception, Wednesday, September 13. 5 - 8 pm

Artist Panel Moderated by Professor Dannielle Tegeder, Wednesday, September 20, 6 -7 pm

What: Painting, ceramics, sculpture, photography, digital work, and site-specific installation by Lehman College graduate alumni. Art that engages with society's current concerns with race and gender relations, sexuality, the immigrant experience, or problems wrought by technology and climate change.

Where: Lehman College Art Gallery
250 Bedford Park West, Bronx, NY
Lehmangallery.org

Who: 27 Lehman College alumni artists:

Lizzy Alejandro, *MFA, 2019*; Nelson Alvarez, *MFA, 2014*; Hillary Anzis-Hostetler, *MFA 2014*;
Shahaan, O. Azeem, *MFA, 2020*; Melissa Castignoli, *MA (Art Education), 2017*.

Patricia Cazorla, *MFA, 2022*; Vanezza Cruz, *MFA, 2014*; Ruben Cuevas, *MA (Art Education), 2022*;
Steven Dana, *MFA, 2012*; Tom Eaton, *MFA, 2015*; Judy Giera, *MFA, 2020*.

Katherine Gomez, *MFA, 2014*; Peter Hamlin, *MFA, 2016*; Vanessa Isabella, *MFA, 2022*;

Graceanne Malloy, *MA (Art Education), 2013*; Tali Margolin, *MA, 2017*;

Rebecca Menashe, *MA (Art Education), 2020*; Matthew Moss, *MA (Art Education), 2019*;

Henry Portillo, *MFA, 2019*; Iliandel Reyes, *MA, 2016*; Ruth Rodriguez Guerrero, *MFA, 2018*;

Sarah Ellen Rowe, *MFA, 2013*; Elizabeth Sayles, *MFA, 2020*; Sima Schloss, *J MFA, 2017*;

Jeremy Sie, MFA, 2016; Rachel Sydlowski, MFA, 2015; Deborah Yasinsky, MFA, 2020

Elizabeth Sayles, a Lehman alumnus, is included in memoriam. A beloved adjunct faculty member of the Lehman College Art Department, she was an accomplished illustrator.

Homecoming showcases the work of alumni artists from the past decade of Graduate Art Programs at Lehman College. Building on the foundation they gained at Lehman College, they have gone on to exhibit their work, participate in residencies and artist professional development programs, receive awards and grants, curate exhibitions and gain gallery representation. Many hold positions in the NYC cultural sector and in arts education. The programs at Lehman College are unique in the NYC area in that coursework is offered in the evenings, promoting a broader and more diverse student body, and allowing students to pursue their degrees and hold full-time positions simultaneously.

The idea of “home” is a powerful one. It is human nature to look for the security of refuge and the reassurance of the known in the landscape of our early years. Creativity for the artist requires a space that provides the safety to experiment and, when needed, the permission to fail. This platform built of support and trust enables the creative process to flower to its fullest. In their own words, Lehman’s alumni comment on the long-lasting impact of the College on their creative development.

I was given the freedom and support to explore which medium allowed me the most freedom of expression - Graceanne Malloy

I learned a great deal about how to really look at art, how to let go and make plenty of mistakes as it is all part of the process of learning and growing – Vanessa Isabella

The research and experimentation I engaged with during graduate school still sustains my approach in artmaking to this day - Rachel Sydlowski

Their individual approaches pushed me to explore diverse territories for creative practice, which continue to significantly influence my work - Jeremy Sie

My professors and classmates were integral in shaping me as the artist I am today . . . I learned that trying new things and being uncomfortable while doing so is crucial in order to grow not only as an artist but as a person. – Sima Schloss

Lehman is an artistic laboratory. The College’s Art Department strives to be the nurturing ground for students as they experiment with new materials and expand their ideas. The

confidence and sophistication of our alumni's varied artistic skills across a range of media is clear. In recent years, societal disruption and economic constraints have proven especially challenging for the art world. For our alumni, these changes have often become the catalyst for creative opportunity. Many of our graduates create work that engages with society's current concerns with race and gender relations, sexuality, the immigrant experience, or problems wrought by technology and climate change. The work produced by Lehman's graduates represents the fruitful results of a strong and thoughtful liberal arts education and the invaluable experiences available at Lehman College.

The exhibition is organized by Sharon Jordan, Department Chair, Lehman College Art Department, Bartholomew Bland, Executive Director, Lehman College Art Gallery, and Deborah Yasinsky, Assistant Director, Lehman College Art Gallery.

This exhibition is made possible in part, by the New York State Council on the Arts, the Jarvis and Constance Doctorow Family Foundation, the Edith and Herbert Lehman Foundation, the New Yankee Stadium Community Benefits Fund, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

About Lehman College Art Gallery:

Always free to the public, Lehman College Art Gallery has been serving the interests of our diverse audience from the Bronx and greater New York City since 1984. The gallery specializes in thematic group exhibitions that bring together famous artists with emerging talents. Education is an integral component of the Gallery's programming and provides the basis of community outreach—from young students to senior citizens.

Lehmanartgallery.org

Tuesday - Saturday 10-4