

The Stamp Gallery

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 27, 2018

THE STAMP GALLERY PRESENTS VOX LACUNAE

A MULTIDISCIPLINARY EXHIBITION CONSIDERING THE INTERSECTION OF LANGUAGES, PEOPLES, AND VISUAL ART, AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK

Featuring work by **Sobia Ahmad, Sera Boeno, Marta Gutierrez, Nilou Kazemzadeh, Jason Kuo, Kim Llerena** and **Yuli Wang**.

Opening Reception Free & Open to the Public **Wednesday, July 18, 5–7 pm**



Images, left to right, top and bottom: Sobia Ahmad, still from *Mirror*, 2016; Kim Llerena, *Red*, 2012; Marta Gutierrez, *Yarumo or Yagrumo or Guarumo or Guarumbo*, 2017; Nilou Kazemzadeh, *The Pull of Night to Dawn*, 2017; Sera Boeno, detail of *Kelimeler Kiyafetsiz (Words Naked / Are Not Enough) - Monument II*, 2016; Jason Kuo (upper), detail of *Buran/No Pollution*, 2018. Yuli Wang (lower), detail of *Lotus*, 2017.

College Park, MD—The Stamp Gallery presents *Vox Lacunae*, an exhibition that investigates the boundaries between written language and visual art, and the boundaries between peoples in a globalized era. *Vox Lacunae* is the second exhibition at the Stamp Gallery this summer, and is curated by gallery manager Grace DeWitt, recent graduate from the University of Maryland, College Park. The exhibition is on view July 18 through August 22, 2018. An opening reception,

free to the public, will take place on Wednesday, July 18, 5–7 pm.

Vox Lacunae calls attention to the gaps that exist both among and within languages, and then asks: when are these gaps beautiful, spaces that should be left unfilled? When are they harmful, spaces that need filling? When do we use language to bring people together, and when do we use language to isolate them? Where do we separate language and visual art and where do we unite them? And, ultimately, to what extent does emotion, artistic intent, and voice, transcend language?

The exhibition presents work in a variety of media—including print, sculpture, installation, photography, painting, and video—by **Sobia Ahmad, Sera Boeno, Marta Gutierrez, Nilou Kazemzadeh, Jason Kuo, Kim Llerena, and Yuli Wang**. A pop-up library, created collaboratively with exhibiting artists and the Art Library at UMCP, will be available in the exhibition for visitors to investigate related concepts further.

An incubator for emerging artists and curators, the Stamp Gallery regularly presents exhibitions curated by undergraduates. Recent student-curated projects include *capital lives* curated by Katherine Mullineux (UMCP '18), and *I'm Fine*, curated by Sarah Schurman (UMCP '18) and Tasiana Paolisso (UMCP '18).

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Sobia Ahmad is an interdisciplinary artist exploring themes of identity and belonging through concepts of dichotomy and duality as an immigrant Muslim female. Ahmad uses intimate imagery from her own life to examine collective relationships between history, contemporary cultures, and personal narrative, particularly within the contexts of colonialism, immigration, politics, and religion. Born and raised in Pakistan, Ahmad moved to the United States at the age of fourteen. She graduated with a B.A. in Studio Art and completed the Honors Art Program at UMCP in 2016. Her work has been included in the Sadat Art for Peace permanent collection and has been displayed in the Washington D.C. metro area, the Los Angeles Craft and Folk Art Museum, and elsewhere including Chicago, Seattle, Denver, and London. Ahmad was awarded an artist residency at the Vermont Studio Center for Fall 2018. sobiaahmad.com

Sera Boeno is a sculptor and installation artist from Istanbul, Turkey. Her praxis is research-based and heavily influenced by the socio-politics of her motherland. Narratives of and around women in historically silenced topics—politics, sex, religion, trauma—are central to her work. Concrete, metal, wood, and found objects make the foundations of her practice. Boeno holds a B.A. from Dartmouth College with degrees in Neuroscience and Studio Art, and an M.F.A. from Rinehart School of Sculpture at Maryland Institute College of Art with focuses in curatorial practice, critical studies and art education. She is the recipient of several awards and grants including the Baltimore Jewelry Center

Fellowship, Leslie King Hammond Award, and Amalie Rothschild '34 for her work. Boeno has worked in various creative projects between Turkey, Japan and the United States, and is currently based in Baltimore, MD. seraboeno.com

Marta Gutierrez was born in Medellín, Colombia. An architect by training, Marta arrived in Boston in 1985 where she enrolled at The School of the Museum of Fine Arts. Two years later, she transferred to The Corcoran School of Art in Washington D.C. where she completed her B.F.A degree. Gutierrez's work is always informed by her constant search for abstraction and techniques which reflect her varied professional background. Her drawings, paintings and sculptures invite viewers to have an alternative look at everyday life with humor. Gutierrez often transforms ordinary nothingness into the imaginative and colorful. She has exhibited in galleries and museums in the United States, Spain and Colombia, and is now based in Washington D.C. martaluz.com

Nilou Kazemzadeh is a Maryland-based artist. She was born and raised in Maryland to Iranian parents. Kazemzadeh grew up in a home filled with Persian, which would later influence her style. She attended UMCP where she completed her B.A. in Studio Art. Kazemzadeh's work is inspired by her Iranian heritage. She explores concepts related to identity, navigation, one's perception of self, and how everyday encounters shape one's thoughts on the greater world. The drive behind her work is her longing to connect more deeply to her Iranian culture and how that fits into her rooted American lifestyle. niloukazemzadeh.com

Jason Kuo is a Professor of Art History and Archaeology and member of the Center for East Asian Studies and the Graduate Field Committee in Film Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park. He has taught at the National Taiwan University, Williams College, and Yale University. He was a Fellow at the Freer Gallery, a Stoddard Fellow at the Detroit Institute of Arts, and an Andrew W. Mellon Fellow at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. He has received grants from the J.D. Rockefeller III Fund, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Henry Luce Foundation. Kuo has been author or editor of numerous texts, and has curated exhibitions both nationally and internationally. His writings have appeared in *Art Journal*, *China Review International*, and the *Journal of Asian and African Studies* among many other publications. He currently serves on the International Advisory Board for the *Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art* and the Editorial Board for the book series *Philosophy of Film*, published by Brill. arthistory.umd.edu/faculty/jason%20kuo

Kim Llerena is a photographic artist currently based in Washington, D.C. She holds an M.F.A in Photographic & Electronic Media from the Maryland Institute College of Art and a B.A. in Journalism from New York University. She exhibits nationally in addition to serving as full-time faculty at American University. She was a 2016 semifinalist in The Print Center's 90th Annual International Competition in Philadelphia, a 2014 finalist for the Trawick Prize in Bethesda, and

a 2013 semifinalist for the Sondheim Artscape Prize in Baltimore. Her work often investigates our constructed relationships to place and our methods of communicating within and about our physical surroundings. She is also particularly interested in the various dualities that characterize the photographic medium, including memory and aspiration, translation and description, art and snapshot. kimllerena.com

Yuli Wang is a lecturer in the Department of East Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at UMCP, and has taught both art and Chinese language since 1999. In 2000, Wang was the Tutor in Chinese to the High Commissioner at the Hong Kong Economic Trade Office in Washington, DC. In 2014, Wang's course proposal was selected and implemented as part of UMCP's Cultural Competence Course Development Project. Wang is the author of numerous publications and conference presentations, covering topics such as traditional Chinese art and calligraphy and methods for instructing Chinese art. Wang earned her M.A. from the Department of History of Fine Arts at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing and her B.A. from the Department of Design at the Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts. slc.umd.edu/user/ywang26

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Grace DeWitt is a Maryland-based multidisciplinary artist integrating installation, video, printmaking, photography, and theory. DeWitt graduated with a B.A. in Studio Art and a B.S. in Pre-Veterinary Animal Science at UMCP this past spring. While at UMCP, DeWitt was a docent, social media coordinator, and most recently, manager, for the Stamp Gallery. She is an alumna of UMCP's Honors Art Program and Honors Humanities Living & Learning Program. She has been curatorial assistant for the *2017 Janet & Walter Sondheim Prize Semifinalist Exhibition* with the Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts, program intern for Maryland Art Place, and is fortunate to have co-curated several exhibitions in College Park, MD. *Vox Lacunae* is her solo curatorial debut. gdewitt9.wixsite.com/gracemariadewitt

ABOUT THE STAMP GALLERY

Located on the first floor of the Adele H. Stamp Student Union—Center for Campus Life at the University of Maryland, College Park, the Stamp Gallery is dedicated to exhibiting contemporary art, especially the work of emerging and mid-career artists. The Stamp Gallery supports contemporary art that is challenging, academically engaging, and attuned to broad community and social issues. Through meaningful exhibitions and programming, the Gallery offers outside-of-the-classroom experiential learning opportunities. It functions as a laboratory where emerging artists and curators experiment and work through their ideas. The Gallery's programming aims to emphasize the importance of process to contemporary artistic practice and to provide a forum for dialogue.

FREE and open to the public. Summer hours: Mondays–Fridays: 11 am–4 pm;
Saturdays and Sundays: Closed. More information: thestamp.umd.edu/gallery

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