

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2023

**MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY GALLERIES PRESENTS THE EXHIBITION
I FORGET MYSELF, WITH YOU BY NATIVE ART DEPARTMENT INTERNATIONAL (NADI)**

**TWO ARTISTS BUILD A FRAMEWORK FOR COLLABORATION THROUGH MUTUAL
RESPECT, NAVIGATING THE DYNAMICS OF CREATIVE DECISION-MAKING AND
PROVIDING A ROADMAP FOR OTHERS TO DO THE SAME**

ON VIEW JANUARY 30 THROUGH MAY 10, 2024



**Native Art Department International (NADI). *Woodland Boogie Woogie #8*, 2023. Acrylic on canvas.
Courtesy of the artists and Patel Brown Gallery.**

Montclair, NJ – Montclair State University Galleries presents the exhibition *i forget myself, with you* by Native Art Department International (NADI) from January 30 through May 10, 2024.

NADI is a collaborative long-term project created and administered by artists Maria Hupfield and Jason Lujan. The exhibition illuminates NADI's commitment to collaboration, mutual respect, and shared understandings of consent that form a framework for navigating the complexities of creative decision-making when working together. The exhibition includes new commissions and recent work including painting, prints, video, and installation.

NADI's newly commissioned work features a video, text, and two sweatshirts sewn together to create a singular garment exploring themes of connection, humor, and codependence. In the video *Cooperation Exercise*, two people wear a sweatshirt joined together at the sleeve. Using American Sign Language (ASL), the two performers sign *Manifesto*, a text written by NADI that explores themes central to their creative collaborations. As each person signs, the other's body is affected by their partner's movements, demonstrating that communication is always a collaborative and relational process that can also be considered an art form.

In their *Untitled* series of printed mylar diptychs, the artists recognize and honor differences in perspective. The diptychs consist of two photographs, one taken by each artist while standing side by side and photographing the same subject. Two almost indistinguishable images of the same flowers have slight differences due to each artist's position, creating subtle variations between the two images. Similar themes are explored in *Studio Two Step*, a series of new collaborative paintings where each artist paints one half of a canvas while the other half is concealed from view. After each half is painted, both artists work together to integrate both sides, creating a singular and unified vision.

“The saying ‘strength in numbers’ is modeled through NADI’s invitation to explore their process, understand communication strategies, and collaborate in a way many find challenging. In addition to painting, sculpture, and video that highlight NADI’s approach to co-creating artworks, *i forget myself, with you* also features moveable mirrored panels, designed by the artists for viewers to interact with. These panels require two people to move, showcasing an architecture of negotiation, says Curator and Exhibition Coordinator Jesse Firestone. “With each movement, the exhibition layout is transformed, even if momentarily. Here, NADI provides a unique opportunity for viewers to immerse themselves in their process, enabling them to find their footing as they negotiate with their inner selves, others, and their surroundings.”

Digital Engagement

The University Galleries is a proud partner of Bloomberg Connects, the free arts and culture app created by Bloomberg Philanthropies. The Bloomberg Connects app, available for download from Google Play or the App Store, makes the University Galleries accessible for both onsite or offsite visits through photo, audio, and video features that offer insights into past and current exhibitions from artists, curators, professors, students, and more. The Galleries’ joins over 300 cultural organizations worldwide with exclusive digital guides on Bloomberg Connects.

Gallery Hours

Tuesday – Friday, 12 – 4 p.m.

Open on select Saturdays of the month and by appointment.

Opening Events

Thursday, February 8, 2024

5 – 7 p.m.

Segal Gallery

Celebrate the opening of Montclair State University Galleries’ Spring 2024 exhibitions *i forget myself, with you* by Native Art Department International (NADI) and *Case Studies 4: Hilliary Gabryel – Side Sleeper*.

6 p.m.

Remarks by the artists, Director Megan C. Austin, and Curator Jesse Bandler Firestone

About The Montclair State University Galleries

The Montclair State University Galleries brings together ideas, perspectives, and dialogues to foster curiosity and shared understandings through art. The University Galleries presents diverse and inclusive exhibitions and programs creating connections that unite the campus experience with local and global communities. www.montclair.edu/galleries

All exhibitions and programs are free and open to the public.

Social Media

Join the conversation on social media by tagging @montclairstategalleries and using the hashtag #MontclairStateGalleries when posting.

Support

This exhibition is made possible, in part, by funds from the McMullen Family Foundation, the College of the Arts, and private contributions.

Media Contact

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