



Augmented Reality Art Gallery Featuring works by UNC Charlotte Faculty

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN: Ming-Chun Lee

ENGINEERING: Saeed Ahmadi Oloonabadi

ARTIST STATEMENT: Augmented Reality (AR) is a technology that combines real (physical) and virtual (digital) environments through an interactive and real-time 3D experience. AR creates immersive experiences with a perception of being physically present in a non-physical world. AR is a new way of seeing. A viewer's own visual perception can be enhanced through computer-generated digital contents. This can be achieved in a variety of ways by see-through devices, head-mounted displays, or mobile devices amongst others. This project aims to explore the new junction between conventional museum exhibitions and these new emerging immersive techniques for image processing and visualization.

Five UNC Charlotte Faculty Artists have shared their work, Cynthia Flaxman Frank, Maja Godlewska, Aspen Hochhalter, Andrew Leventis, Samira ShiriDevich. View their work before the 6pm show or directly after the 8pm show. Please find more about their artwork below.

Cynthia Flaxman Frank

OlivEll, 2018, oil on canvas, 36" x 36" x 2"

Excerpt313, 2020, oil and cold wax on canvas, 36" x 36" x 2", 2020

Excerpt314, 2020, oil and cold wax on canvas, 36" x 36" x 2", 2020

ARTIST STATEMENT: In this series, "Excerpt," I explore the structure and visual language of the printed page. Grids and typographic texture become painterly, indecipherable texts of my own. The excerpt has been rewritten on its new surface and at a new scale.

Cynthia Flaxman Frank is the owner of Cynthia Frank Design and a current Lecturer in the Art & Art History Department at Charlotte. Her work as a graphic designer carries over to the canvas and informs her subject matter and process—symbol, icon, ephemera and text, reproduced, repeated, and collaged. The resulting images comprise the unique pages of her personal narrative. Cynthia has served on the Boards of AIGA Charlotte, Founders' Circle Affiliate of the Mint Museum and The Wall Poems of Charlotte. She has created public art as a Partner in PAC3, an award-winning collaboration. Cynthia received a B.A. and an M.F.A. from Yale University. Her fine art is represented by Elder Gallery of Contemporary Art in Charlotte, NC.

Maja Godlewska

Southern Ocean, 2020, water soluble mediums on canvas, 60x60"

Olympic, 2020, water soluble mediums on canvas, 60x120"

Night at Corinna, 2020, water soluble media on canvas, 60x120"

ARTIST STATEMENT: Globetrotting tourists consume natural beauty with the use of electronic devices; I am one of them. With my work, I investigate the notions of the exotic, pristine and unspoiled land and of the tourist gaze. I spy on the spectacle of looking for the "ultimate amazing" to be uploaded and shared.

What is the draw of the remote and the exotic, why the hope that we are the first to discover, uniquely positioned for an encounter? Why do we crave nature in the age of Anthropocene? Is this a subconscious attempt to catch a glimpse of what will soon be gone? We seem to look for a high-touch experience but through a high-tech lens.

We expect nature to deliver a sense of enchantment, of a total dissolution, to reconnect us with forces larger than us. But the traveller changes the travelled land. We arrive with expectations and project desired imagery onto places we visit.

My work draws from the historic paintings of the Sublime, from the work created by the traveller artists and the exoticizing visions of the tropics. I depict landscapes with small figures of present day explorers; I paint not what they see, but what potentially might be there, perhaps outside of the frame of their viewfinders, an ultimate experience that awaits just around the corner.

Maja Godlewska is a Professor and the Area Coordinator for Painting in the Department of Art & Art History. Godlewska earned her Master of Fine Arts in Painting from the Academy of Fine and Design Arts, Wroclaw, Poland, and received a Postgraduate Scholarship at the National College of Art and Design, Dublin, Ireland. Her recent research interests have been focused on the spectacle of global tourism, tourist gaze, instagrammable Sublime, visual consumption of nature, and the phenomenology of the landscape. As a visual artist, her work has been exhibited internationally in more than 100 solo and group shows

Godlewska has been a recipient of numerous grants and fellowships, including a Fulbright Fellowship, two North Carolina Arts Council Fellowship Awards, a Kosciuszko Foundation Fellowship, and a Tempus Mobility Grant/European Union.. She has also participated in artist-in-residence programs in South and North America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia.

<http://maja-godlewska.squarespace.com/artwork>

Aspen Hochhalter

Untitled from Future Nature / Content Aware, 2022, Archival Inkjet Prints on Japanese Paper, 17" x 69"

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ARTIST STATEMENT: As we face an uncertain, and certainly unstable future due to climate change, what will our experience of nature become? Will computers and future AI create nature "experiences" for us? The *Future Nature / Content Aware* series explores how computers, and specifically the Photoshop content aware algorithm, interprets and reconstructs partial panoramic photographs to give us a glimpse into a digital "vision." Of course, with the advancements in Generative AI, we soon will not be able to visually distinguish between computer and human generated imagery.

Aspen Hochhalter is a fine art photographer and educator based in Charlotte, NC. Her work explores the crossover between digital technologies, historic processes and the use of experimental materials through appropriation, self-portraiture, and collaborative projects.

She received her Masters of Fine Arts in Photo Based Media at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina and her BFA in Photography from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. She is an Associate Professor of Art and the Photography Area Coordinator in the Department of Art & Art History at UNC Charlotte. <https://aspenhochhalter.com/>

Andrew Leventis

Freezer Box (Vanitas), 2020, Oil on Linen, 36x48"

Mini Fridge (Vanitas), 2020, Oil on Linen, 26x18"

Heavy Cream (Vanitas), 2020, Oil on Linen, 33x25"

ARTIST STATEMENT: In a nod to the still-life painters of the Dutch Golden Age, North Carolina-based artist Andrew Leventis considers the historical and contemporary significance of vanitas. Inspired by photographs of fridge contents taken by his friends and colleagues, Leventis' images are strikingly familiar. They speak of domesticity, a quiet intimacy that is part of our everyday lives. Each interior tells a story: packed shelves that betray a sense of hurried anxiety, surgically clean steel compartments half-filled with raw meat, or neatly arranged dairy products and condiments to satisfy an overindulgent palate. Although less explicit, the core themes of vanitas paintings – the fragility and transience of life and the hollowness of worldly pleasures – are present. Traditional symbols of the genre like skulls, extinguished candles, books, and musical instruments are replaced by sets of whole chickens, a pig head, a slab of butter, or everyday treats, such as a carton of heavy cream, a jar of pickles, or beer bottles. Similarly, decadent piles

of objects existing purely for our own entertainment and satisfaction reflect our futile desire for hedonistic consumption in contemporary society and a primal need for self-preservation. Leventis began to work on this series during the Covid pandemic, which forced him to grapple with the caducity of life. His oeuvre casts a spotlight on our human shortcomings and fears, but does so with compassion and understanding, for others as well as himself. -Gabriella Mazza

Associate Professor of Painting Andrew Leventis received an MFA in Fine Arts from Goldsmiths College, University of London, and an MA in Fine Art from Wimbledon College of Art, University of the Arts London. He earned a Bachelor of Fine Art in Painting from the American Academy of Art, Chicago. He has exhibited internationally at museums and galleries and most recently at the Mint Museum Uptown, Charlotte, NC (2022); Venice Arsenale, Italy (2021); York Art Gallery, UK (2021); and Arts Visalia, Visalia, CA (2021). Forthcoming exhibitions include the Whitaker Museum, Rossendale, UK, and SOCO Gallery, Charlotte, NC.

Samira ShiriDevich

Poster, Ham Tavilee (theater play), 2017, commissioned by Iranian Art Committee, 24"x36"
Infographics, 2021, National Science Foundation Grant Proposal, Shimberg Project, 16"x21"
Infographics, 2021, National Science Foundation Grant Proposal, Shimberg Project, 16"x21"
Infographics, 2021, National Science Foundation Grant Proposal, Shimberg Project, 16"x21"

ARTIST STATEMENT: Infographics show the co-design process between visual communicators and subject matter experts to better develop resilience in the face of natural disasters caused by climate change for the Shimberg project's National Science Foundation Grant proposal. I hope to be known as a designer who connects professionals and vulnerable communities while using modern technologies to tackle comprehensive and complex problems. I believe there are thousands of people with the skills and knowledge to impact lives around them and in the world. Design is a powerful tool to bridge subject matter experts and communities to discover how powerful they are collectively to discover this valuable resource. The biggest hope in my life is to make freedom more accessible globally. I believe by using design, we may find ways to address this issue.

Assistant Professor of Graphic Design Samira ShiriDevich is an Iranian designer and entrepreneur whose work in graphic, motion, UI/UX, Interaction, and participatory design is focused on exploring and addressing the complexities of freedom, equity, and agency through design. To do this, she uses a human-centered, horizontal approach, emphasizing participatory and community-engaged design. In addition to UNC Charlotte, she has taught graphic design as an instructor of record at the University of Florida and at various institutions in Iran before coming to the United States. ShiriDevich received her MFA in Design and Visual Communications from the University of Florida and earned an MA in Design and Visual Communications from the University of Art in Tehran. She has over a decade of professional experience in Iran, and her work and research have been featured in national and international conferences, exhibitions, and publications.