

Presence: RU Summer 2022 Group Show

Aug 12-27, 2022

Cuchifritos Gallery + Project Space

Inside Essex Market, 88 Essex St #21, New York, NY 10002

Gallery hours: Wednesday - Saturday | 12:00 - 6:00pm

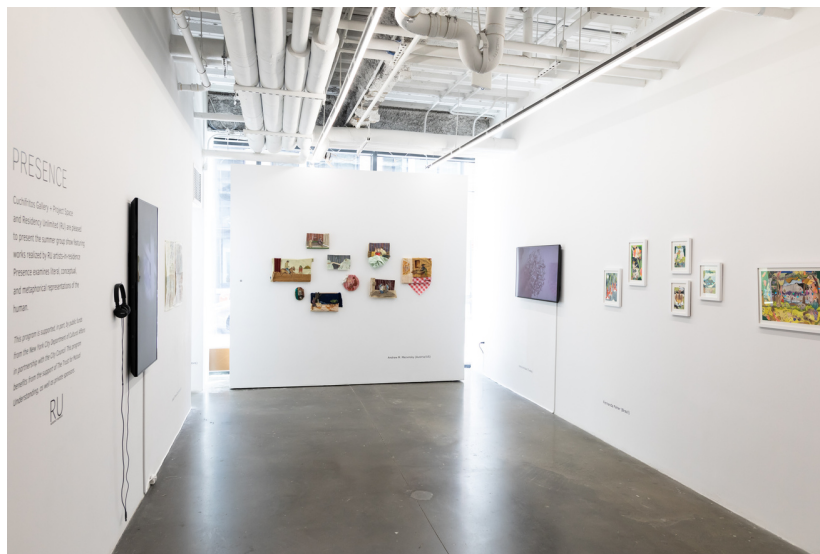
Opening reception: Friday August 12, 2022 | 6:00 - 8:00pm

On view: August 12 - 27, 2022



Residency Unlimited and Cuchifritos Gallery + Project Space are pleased to present the summer group show **Presence**, featuring works realized by the artists-in-residence **Jakub Choma** (Czech Republic), **Fernanda Feher** (Brazil), **Hamza Kırbaş** (Turkey), **Enxhi Mehmeti** (Germany/Kosovo), and **Andrew M. Mezvinsky** (Austria/US).

The works of "Presence" examine literal, conceptual, and metaphorical representations of the human.



Jakub Choma is the winner of the 2020 Jindrich Chalupecky Award in Czech Republic. His work addresses the aesthetics of digital waste with an emphasis on the material nature of the seemingly immaterial virtual environment.

Fernanda Feher is a multimedia artist who subverts traditional portraiture by placing subjects in fantastic, sometimes impossible landscapes heavy with symbolism. Women and nature are a main focus.

Hamza Kırbaş views his artistic practice as a communication model between space, time and the audience. His subjects are taken from daily life and explore links between past, future and present.

Andrew M. Mezvinsky works in a variety of media and appropriated materials borrowed from a day-to-day context. He creates situations in which everyday objects are altered or detached from their natural function.

Enxhi Mehmeti is the winning artist of the 2021 Artist of Tomorrow Award in Prishtina, Kosovo. Her drawings, sound and assemblage works conjure and make visible the phantastic as an act of "patience and affection."

Opening Reception



Selected Works



*"Bertha Benz plotting to chase fun," 2022.
Oil on fabric.*



"Fundamentally deceptive stick of the pregnancy test," 2022. Oil on fabric.

Andrew Mezvinsky

Mezvinsky addresses ethics of care by creating situations that can be seen as mini atmospheres in which everyday objects and figures are altered or detached from their natural function. In his practice, he employs labor-intensive processes that can be seen explicitly as a personal exorcism ritual, saturated with obviousness, mental inertia, clichés, and bad jokes.



Hamza Kirbas

In his 3D animations, **Kirbaş** evokes a society that is increasingly insensitive to the detriment of the individual. In his depictions of imaginary figures, the artist's intention is to activate the viewers' social identity and reflect upon their perception of themselves in relation to historical memory; in other words, their sense of belonging within a group with a common culture.

Selected Works



Untitled drawings for Presence, 2022

Enxhi Mehmeti

Mehmeti explores the power within humans to deal with innocence and danger, and the hide and seek strategies resulting from this dynamic. In delicately rendered works on paper, the artist aims to reveal who is able to show face and who is not, whilst conjuring the phantastic. Mehmeti likens this endeavor to “a love letter to the underestimated.”



Selected Works



*"BowerBird and the Lady's Slippers" 2022.
Watercolor and sequins on paper, 31x41cm.*

Fernanda Feher

Feher's paintings challenge the reality of the known by transposing familiar subjects such as friends and family into unnatural and surreal settings. Here, she explores the unspoken rules of "dating" in human behavior which she humorously likens to mating dances performed by birds that she has seen in documentaries by David Attenborough.



*Wahnes Parotia on tinder, 2022.
Watercolor and sequins*



*Creator Bird of Paradise on tinder, 2022.
Watercolor and sequins*

Selected Works



"Beta Ground (Delirium Obstacle)," 2019.
Single-channel HD Video. Duration: 0:12:48:29

Jakub Choma

In **Choma's** video, the human is at the limit of exhaustion in a threshold space situated between a final defeat and an opening into the realm of new possibilities. The viewer travels into a haptic delirium through wormholes, phantom tricks, and feedback loops, with quotations by Vaida Stepanovaite that respond to the cultural and political presence(s) of post-socialism.



Untitled_1, (Settled Dust) 2021
Printer ink transfer on wet paper, 60x40 cm/23x15 in

Residency Unlimited thanks Cuchifritos Gallery + Project Space for hosting this exhibition.

Cuchifritos Gallery + Project provides exhibition opportunities to hundreds of independent curators and emerging underrepresented artists. Its location inside the Essex Street Market creates a distinct opportunity to directly engage with the local community about contemporary art. Artists Alliance Inc is interested in promoting contemporary artwork in all media, to be shown within a local community setting, though we do not promote community-based art. Through an annual open call, Cuchifritos Gallery + Project Space seeks exhibitions featuring the work of emerging and underrepresented contemporary artists and the curators who seek to exhibit these artists' work in a clear and concise context. In addition, Cuchifritos Gallery + Project Space is particularly interested in exhibits that convey relevance to the local community.

This exhibition is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council. This program benefits from the support of The Trust for Mutual Understanding, as well as private sponsors. We extend our special thanks to Jodi Waynberg.

