

Opening
Saturday, August 17, 2024
11:00 am – 5:00 pm

RU
RESIDENCY UNLIMITED

RU House at
Colonels Row, Building #404B
on Governors Island

On view
August 16-25, 2024
Fridays through Sundays
11:00 am – 5:00 pm

CECILIA BARRETO

**SHIA ROAN
CONLON**

*Gjorgji
Despodov*

**DAVID
PŘÍLUČÍK**

R.B VAN HEESCH

*The House
of Confluence:*
BRICOLAGE

CURATED BY DATA CHIGHOLASHVILI

Poster designed by **Gjorgji Despodov**

The House of Confluence: Bricolage



Curated by 2024 RU Guest Curator [Data Chigholashvili](#), the group show *The House of Confluence: Bricolage* features works by RU artists [Cecilia Barreto](#) (Mexico), [Shia Roan Conlon](#) (Finland), [Gjorgji Despodov](#) (North Macedonia), [R.B van Heesch](#) (Netherlands), and [David Příkladík](#) (Czech Republic).

Bricolage is a loanword from French that relates to the exhibition not with its direct translation, but conceptually through its multifaceted understanding in arts, humanities, and social sciences. It connects with “The House of Confluence” by reflecting on international exchanges in the arts, and in this process, bringing residency group shows together to offer new insights. Moreover, bricolage here is seen as worldmaking (introduced by Nelson Goodman), more in a sense wherein culture and meanings are (re)considered in flux, as lived experiences – that critically build on existing symbols, knowledge, and imaginations to create new understandings and directions. Through different topics and approaches found in the artworks, the exhibition proposes a diversity in worldmaking. In this bricolage, we find revisiting symbols and charts, representing personal or imaginary worlds, addressing less-known stories, and exploring fragments of reliefs or landscapes – aspects that flow and differently emerge in the works, creating interconnections concerning the complexity of how we make the (sense of) world around us.

The first floor of the house presents rather personal aspects in worldmaking, while the two installations differ in approaches and forms of expression. The works of [Shia Roan Conlon](#) are intimate representations of trans lives, which celebrate desire, fantasy, liberation, and everyday life. “Family Portrait” is a long-term project wherein the artist explores queer and trans archives, combines this material with his personal pictures from childhood and artistic practice, and explores the idea of family. This bricolage of images and ephemera is like a patchwork of queer history and art, offering insights into worldmaking wherein marginalized groups have often been missing.

Interested in exploring the inner world through experimental filmmaking, the immersive installation “Trinity: The Plot Hole” by [R.B van Heesch](#) uses material from his ongoing film project, which is inspired by the book “Mount Analogue: A Novel of Symbolically Authentic Non-Euclidean Adventures in Mountain Climbing” by René Daumal. The installation utilizes working footage from this project, develops analog manipulations, and creates kaleidoscopic sequences to represent the cinematic effects of spiritual transformation. Through the works of three artists working with different forms and approaches, the second floor of the house proposes redefined understandings of collective myths, landscapes, and realities. [Cecilia Barreto](#) works on artistic research projects in which socio-economic data from various sources become the underlying structures of her artworks. Focusing on extractivism, and its social and environmental consequences, her abstract paintings are based on diagrams, figures, and maps. Through this approach, the artist critically reflects on how places and communities are affected by extracting resources, often for the “cleaner world” in other parts of the planet. In “Validation Seekers (The Gods of the West),” [Gjorgji Despodov](#) focuses on the journey of a hero and rethinks myths and archetypes. The relief reminds us of classical sculptures but with a body-positive approach, where contemporary symbols and elements also merge with them. The installation hints at consumerist culture, suggesting a world where emojis and certain symbols act like prayers, worshipping new heroes, deities, or gods – which in the manner of bricolage consists of old and new forms, and in their representations take the plastic form of our time. Challenging anthropocentric views on nature, and researching image-making and romanticization of landscapes, [David Příkladík](#) offers a CGI world where various layers combine. It is ambiguous whether to what “Relief” the title refers to – an outline of an actual landscape that one knows, an imagined one, and/or that feeling of relief? Manipulated sounds are as enigmatic as the emotions, conditions, and actions of humans in this place that shifts. It offers a bricolage of landscapes from the past, reimagined through representation that the work transcends, exploring landscapes and reliefs of today’s world.

Works by Cecilia Barreto

Everybody Knows 0

2020
Mixed media, acrylic, oil,
silverpoint on
canvas
12" diameter



Abstract Capital 18

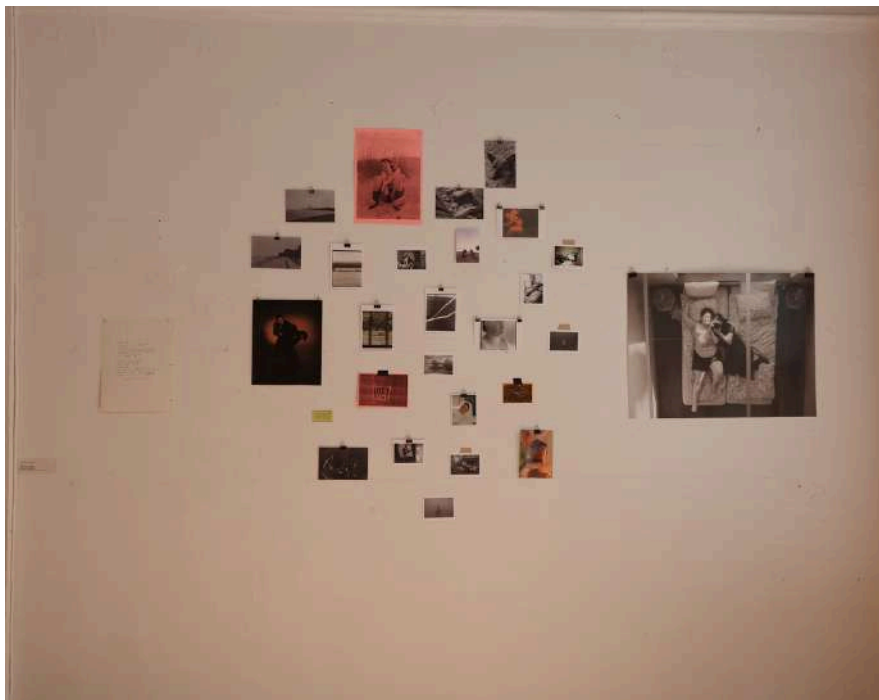
2024
Oil on canvas
20" x 16"

Abstract Capital 17

2024
Oil on canvas
20" x 14"



A work by Shia Roan Conlon



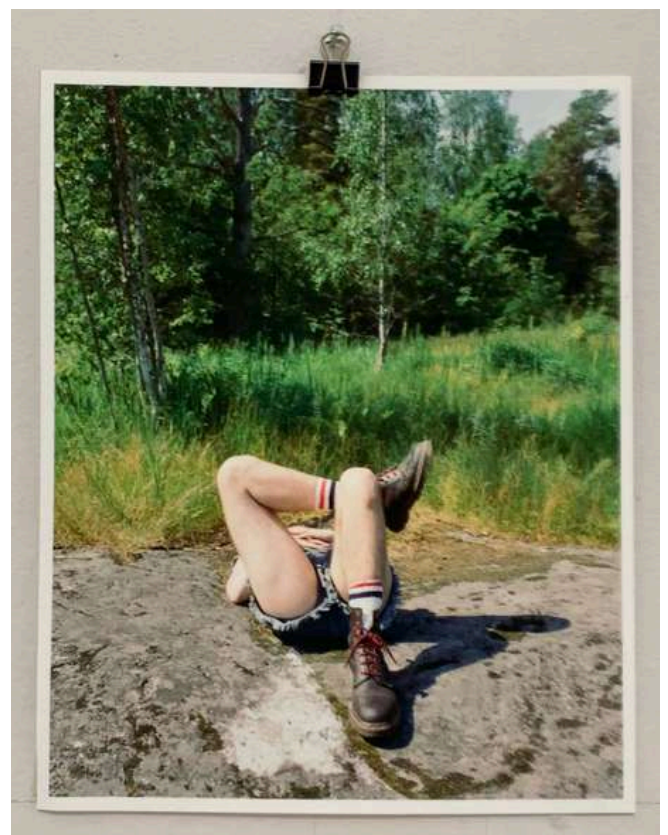
Family Portrait

2024

Mixed-media
installation

Photographs,
printouts,
photocopies,
ephemera

Dimensions variable



A work by Gjorgji Despodov



Validation Seekers (The Gods of the West)

2023

Mixed-media
installation

Relief, 3D-printed
objects, plexiglass
cut-outs, 20" x 14"

Object, plexiglass
cutouts, 12" x 17"

Audio, 01:47



A work by David Příkladík

Relief

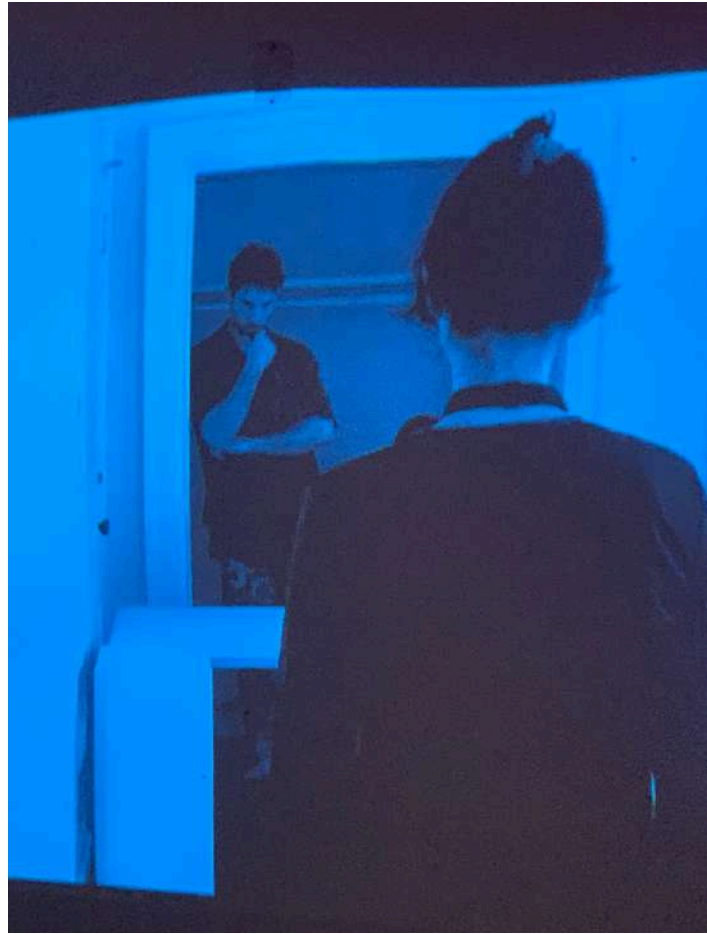
2024
CGI
video
08:16



A work by R.B van Heesch

Trinity: The Plot Hole

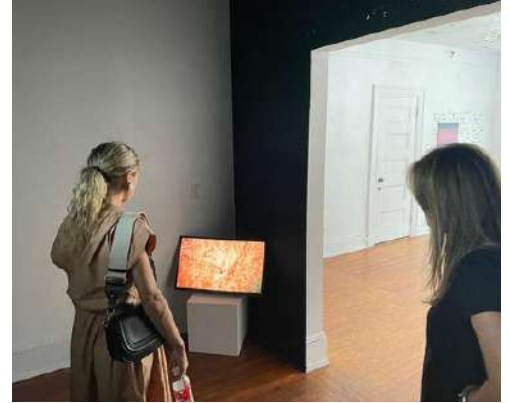
2024
Immersive
installation



Opening Reception

Saturday August 17, 2024 | 11 - 5pm
RU House Governors Island

On View Fridays through
Sundays, August 16 – 25 |
11am – 5pm



About the Artists



Cecilia Barreto is a Mexico City-based artist whose artistic research projects focus on developing narratives around recent events. Cecilia was selected for the 14th edition of the Future and Contemporary Havana Biennial in 2021 and 2022. She develops artistic/theoretical research projects by selecting and interpreting data and information sourced from books, journalistic investigations, and specialized research journals. She works across various mediums, primarily painting, drawing, sculpture, and installations. Full bio [here](#).



Shia Roan Conlon is an artist whose work as a photographer centers on the power of the medium as a tool for trans liberation. Conlon's work is deeply influenced by the fetishistic nature of photography, as well as by the history of queer photography and cinema that has come before him. He sees his practice as part of a legacy of using art to resist oppressive norms and create space for marginalized communities to thrive. His goal is to create a body of work that showcases the full complexity and diversity of trans life. Full bio [here](#).



Gjorgji Despodov is a multidisciplinary artist born in North Macedonia and currently based in the Netherlands. He works with virtual and augmented reality concepts, and the use of different digital media: illustration, video, 3D animation, and installation. The interpretations and use of familiar objects serve as an extension of his personal experiences, tapping into general truths. His artistic practice exists between physical and digital environments, where the story unfolds through carefully crafted things. Full bio [here](#).



David Přilučík's works are places where we encounter the limits of Western imagination and rationality. In them, the artist weaves human and other subjects into various aesthetic modes, including the moving image, installations, objects and live events. David's work has been presented at various independent galleries and institutions in the Czech Republic, including Meetfactory, PLATO, the National Film Archive, and the National Gallery Prague. Full bio [here](#).



R.B van Heesch is a Dutch filmmaker and artist. His video works make you descend into dreamscapes, the personal narratives, peels away at layers of your soul, till we unite as one homogenous state of human being stood in front of the screen. The fragments of images and text illustrates a form of cinema beyond a formula we are familiar with, in which we weave together disparate stories of varying beings. So we realize this world is paved with many beings with their own voice, dreams, stories, ways of seeing, and being and ultimate journey's in which we too reflect on our own. Full bio [here](#).

About the Curator



Data (David) Chigholashvili works at the intersection of social anthropology and contemporary art. They are a 2024 guest curator at RU. Their research, curatorial practice, and art projects explore topics around visual and urban anthropology, ethnography, socially engaged art, natural and built environments, public space, migration, foodways, memory, queering, archives, and/or museums. Data's projects are strongly related to the specificities of contexts and often include collaborative, educational, and/or participatory aspects. Data has worked in arts and culture independently, also as the Curator of International Programs at the State Silk Museum, and was in the team of an artist-run organization and residency GeoAIR. They have participated in many residency and fellowship programs, presented at different conferences and events internationally, as well as written for various platforms and edited publications. Full bio [here](#).

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