

TIDELAND

Olivia Baldwin
Elizabeth Ellenwood
Shadia Heenan Nilforoush
Chad Uehlein

A bit of blue.
A shard of canvas.
A fragment of debris.
A glimpse of luck.

All collected, all revered, materials shift between the four of us, yet lived impressions remain a constant. Shadia Heenan Nilforoush roots her practice in performance and video, mapping family archives, personal histories and polarized identities. Olivia Baldwin traverses sculpture and painting, casting color across walls, floors, and ceilings. Elizabeth Ellenwood walks the beach, catalogs collected detritus and photographically urges marine conservation. Chad Uehlein's cheeky installations and ad-hoc inventions become sites for performances that suspend time and vanquish efficiency on his quest for hope.

We have found leeway with one another, drifting apart and coming back together. As the current rushes by, *Tideland* is our raft and our shore.

OLIVIA BALDWIN



Hold, 2019

Olivia Baldwin's practice interweaves painting and sculpture. Her work has been exhibited in venues in Austria, Italy, and throughout the United States, including A.I.R. Gallery, Boston University's Faye G. Jo, and James Gallery, and Jane Lombard Gallery. She has attended residencies at the Woodstock Byrdcliffe Guild and Vermont Studio Center, and is a 2019 recipient of an Assets for Artists Grant (MASS MoCA). She earned a BFA in Painting, and BA in English/ Creative Writing from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is a candidate for the MFA in Studio Art at the University of Connecticut.

Artist Statement

Anchored in abstraction, my paintings dialogue with the body. I begin with color and material, then act—dipping, tearing, cutting, rubbing, painting. Gestures amass, evoking hides, maps, kickstands, meteorites. Sometimes I lead, sometimes they lead. Recurring shapes pool into one another; marks echo across the work, coaxing language. I skirt equilibrium, speaking in fragments. Sensation presses forward.

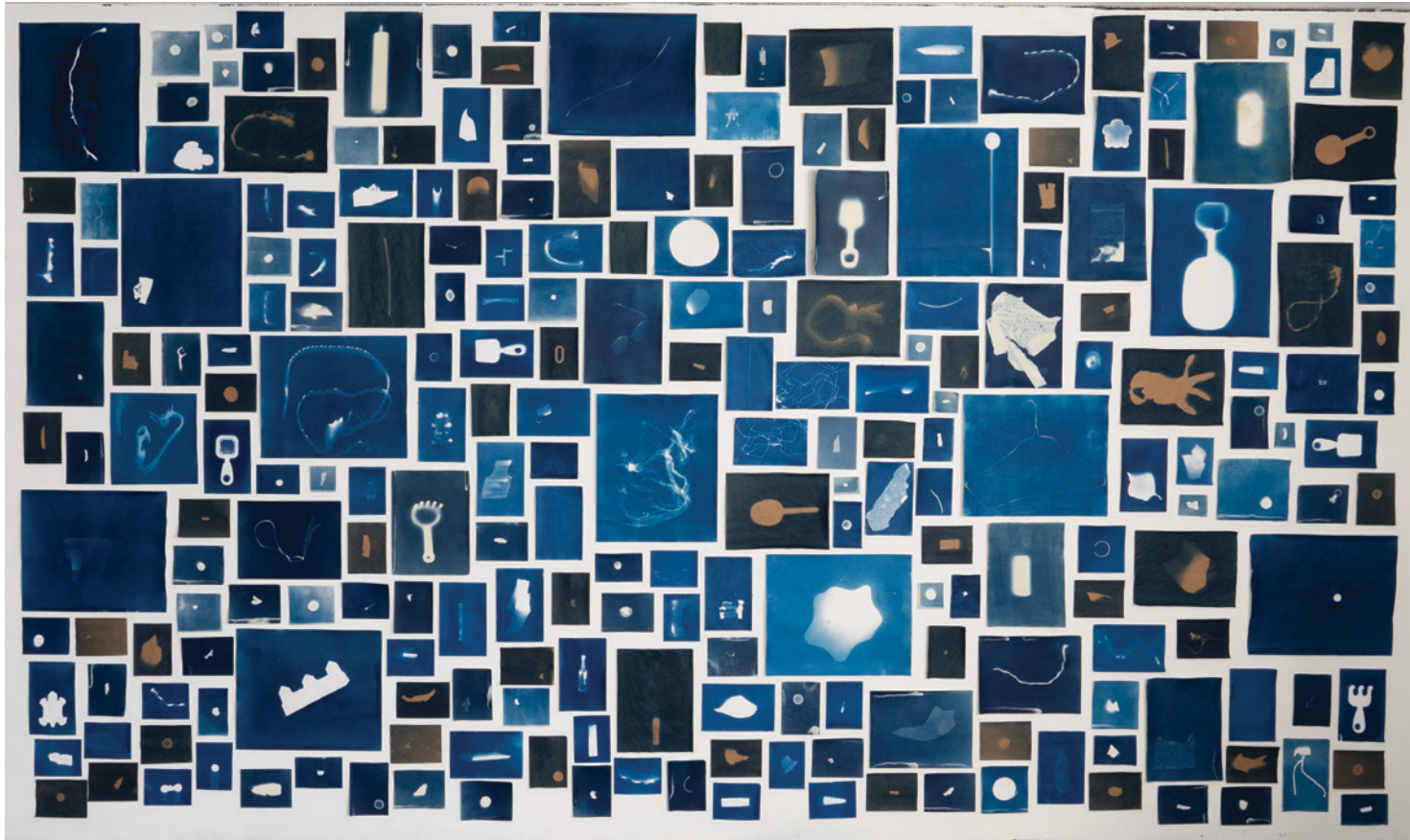


Catapult, 2019



Link, 2019

ELIZABETH ELLENWOOD

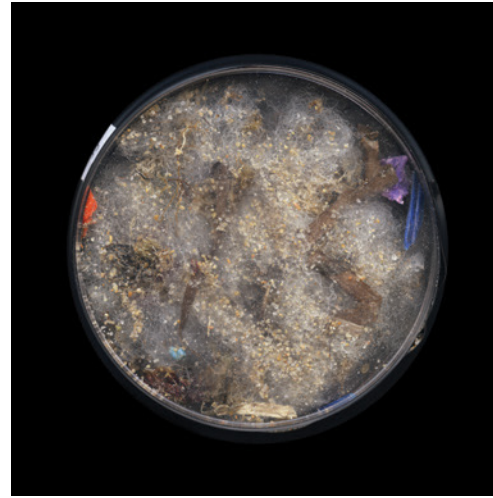


November 3, 2018 (Installation), 2018

Elizabeth Ellenwood uses photography to visually explore and bring attention to critical environmental issues. Her recent solo exhibition at The Alexey von Schlippe Gallery was supported by the Connecticut Sea Grant Art Support Award and University of Connecticut's Zachs Award. Elizabeth is a recipient of a Denis Roussel Merit Award and is a 2020 US Fulbright semi-finalist. Her work has been exhibited at The Newport Art Museum, Panopticon Gallery and The Vermont Center of Photography. Elizabeth received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography from The New Hampshire Institute of Art and is a candidate for a Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art from the University of Connecticut.

Artist Statement

Beach walks act as anchor and inspiration, offering me space to question, think, and create. My work combines a reverence for the ocean with research-driven photography to encourage curiosity and environmental awareness. Whether depicting marine debris, bleached coral reefs, or cephalopod defense mechanisms, I choose specific photographic techniques to complement my subject matter. Aesthetic hooks provide entry points to underlying issues — a cyanotype photogram of a plastic bag weathering into pieces becomes a commentary on single-use plastics. Each work is distinct in process and intent yet my need to be by the water remains constant.



*Collection #35 :
East Beach State
Park, Charlestown,
RI, 2019*



*Water Bottle :
Collected on
September 19, 2018*

SHADIA HEENAN NILFOROUSH



Mother of the Blueness (Film Still), 2020

Shadia Heenan Nilforoush is a multidisciplinary artist working in video and performance to reconcile polarizing identities. Shadia is the recipient of the Crandall-Cordero Fellowship, the Barbara Bullitt Christian Memorial Award and is a 2020 US Fulbright semi-finalist. Her work has been exhibited in shows including Plexus Projects New York, Artspace Hartford, Atlantic Wharf Gallery Boston, and the Multicultural Caucus for the Society of Photographic Education in New Orleans. She received her BFA, with a minor in Psychology, from the Hite Art Institute at the University of Louisville. Currently, she is a Master of Fine Arts candidate at the University of Connecticut.

Artist Statement

Working in photo, video, performance, and installation, I excavate my personal history as source material to reconcile adaptive and evolving identities. My work considers how identities are formed and performed through multiculturalism, religion, geography, gender, sexuality, and the residue of trauma. I meditate on the visceral trace of the Islamic call to prayer. I peel oranges like flesh, bathe in textile waters, drip coffee and black tea like cultural DNA, and layer myself beneath the eye-shaped protection of the nazar amulet. I'm driven by the desire for amalgamation rather than bifurcation.



Mother of the Blueness (Film Still), 2020



Mother of the Blueness (Film Still), 2020

CHAD UEHLEIN



Chad Uehlein is a multidisciplinary artist finding solutions to imaginary problems. His studio practice spans a range from printmaking to installation and video. He has been the recipient of a Doctoral Student Travel Fellowship and a Gillette Study of the Arts Abroad Scholarship to Austria. Uehlein has exhibited at the Alexey von Schlippe Gallery in Connecticut, the Mazmanian Gallery in Massachusetts, and performed at DuskLit Interactive Art Festival in upstate New York. He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Printmaking, with a minor in Art History from the University of Akron's Mary Schiller Myers School of Art. Chad Uehlein is a candidate for a Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art at the University of Connecticut.

Artist Statement

Easily enamored, I invent mechanisms to capture my attention. My work embraces the do-it-yourself mentality as a starting point to devising solutions of opportunity. Humor joins my process of drawing, re-purposing, and responding. I see the endeavor to overcome obstacles as optimistic, searching for every resource available in desperation to win. I build tools to increase the chance for success -- a lucky penny generator, an analog fish finder, a codex of clovers. There's hope in being in the right place at the right time, feeling your day move from bad to good, spirits uplifted, ready to take on the world.



Lucky Penny, 2020



Birdbox, 2019

As artists, we face the daunting task of creation. It is a task made up of successes and failures. A seemingly endless journey of failure, repetitions, and frustration, and then a revelation is followed by elation. Afterwards the artist begins again, building upon what they have learned spiraling full circle, seeing with new eyes. As artists we embrace the mistake, the flaw, which opens the window to new paths. The time spent in graduate school encourages the artist to embrace their journey and nurture questions. When artists find their passion, and pursue it relentlessly, delving deeply into an unknown, the creative spirit is challenged and invigorated. With this exhibition, we see the culmination of an exhaustive dedication to the studio by these young artists. We see their explorations and visual inquiries, and from them we learn more about our world. Congratulations to the MFA Studio Art class of 2020.

Judith Thorpe
Professor of Art, MFA Program Director

I offer my congratulations to the University of Connecticut Department of Art & Art History Master of Fine Arts Class of 2020. Olivia Baldwin, Elizabeth Ellenwood, Shadia Heenan Nilforoush and Chad Uehlein have mastered the challenges of an intensive multidisciplinary visual arts graduate program. With Tideland they share the culmination of three years' creative investigation and collaboration. I offer, too, my sincere appreciation for the artists they have become since our first seminar together, for all they have embraced and nourished, and carry with them into the future.

Monica Bock
Professor of Art, MFA Project Seminar

Master of Fine Arts Exhibition 2020
University of Connecticut
Department of Art + Art History

The William Benton Museum of Art
2020 UConn Studio Art + Digital
Media & Design Master of Fine Arts
Thesis Exhibition
April 4 - May 10, 2020

Opening Reception
April 16, 4:30-7:00pm

245 Glenbrook Road
Storrs, CT
benton.uconn.edu

Zurcher Gallery
False Body
July 27 - July 30, 2020

Opening Reception
July 27, 5:00-7:00pm

Closing Reception
July 30, 5:00-7:00pm

33 Bleecker St
New York, NY 10012
galeriezurcher.com

Acknowledgments
We would like to express our gratitude to our families, friends, faculty, and peers who have provided continuous support and guidance over these three years.

We would also like to thank UConn's Design Center Studio for the creation of this catalog and accompanying materials.

Concept + Design
Design Center Studio

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