

CLADOGRAM - KATONAH MUSEUM BIENNIAL -

Juried exhibitions are a strange animal, that deep within hold possibility. Skin in the game, fees paid, jpegs and statements uploaded, the artist waits to hear back. A time when institutions loosen the stitches that close off pathways to participation.

Cladogram is inspired by artists interested in knowledge as speculative. What do we bring to the work on view, and what does the work know? Years spent coming to better understand the ways painter Miki Carmi and performance artist Tamy Ben-Tor upend racial archetypes built from classification systems have impacted my judgment, and the resulting selection of 58 artists, who are from many places, and are organized by sweeping categories: seriality, space, and the body.

Pointed moments in the works of Boedi Widjaja, Naomi Andrée Campbell, Sarah Nance, **Lucia Warck Meister**, Antonietta Grassi, and Brigitta Varadi show how artists materialize new world orders. Going beyond mirroring or abstracting observations. Beyond the symbolic. To shatter taxonomies. To redress trauma and curb its inheritability.

Infinite Archive's interpretation of a house; nqma, who critique architecture; the ways Desmond Beach pulls threads from the past into the future; Margaret Fox's playful dismembering of systems of measure; and Matthew O'Reilly's surprising, biting, sculptured bodies, all take on, head to head, whiteness, art history, power, ego.

Highly peculiar formulations peer upon embedded hierarchies known to steer intimacies and family dynamics. Rosemary von Schlegell's hazy, flat, inward view. Sandra Fleming's coupling of old and young. Catherine Vanaria's snapshot. Mary Proenza's diminutive painting of her brother — it could hold the room. But, the sheer number of works included in this show doesn't allow for that sort of spacing.

Books, sound, video, paintings, photography, and drawing build the show. Wide in girth, the breadth of art here notes the role of the cladogram in our subjugation. To be redrawn, to imagine discrete liberations.

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