

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Morean Arts Center Announces Participants for Fresh Squeezed 6:
Emerging Artists in Florida Exhibition
Opens Saturday, April 9**

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. – *Fresh Squeezed 6: Emerging Artists in Florida* is an annual exhibition where six up-and-coming artists are chosen to showcase their works in a solo show for the first time, at the Morean Arts Center.

Now in its sixth year, *Fresh Squeezed* has been a growing success for both the Morean Arts Center and participating artists. The annual showcase focuses on nurturing and advancing the careers of budding visual artists, while giving the community the opportunity to discover exciting new art being made in our region. The opening reception will be held during Second Saturday ArtWalk, Saturday, April 9, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Morean Arts Center.

Amanda Cooper, Chief Curator for the Morean Arts Center “received nearly 150 entries, with only 6 slots to fill. The jurying process is always exciting, but the process is not without its trials; it’s hard to say “no, for now” to so many excellent artists due to space constraints”. Cooper continued, “this region in which we live, work and play continues to be a breeding ground for exciting new talent.”

The following Florida based artists featured in this year’s exhibition were chosen due to their unique and innovative points of view.

Eugene Agyei, residing in Gainesville, Fla. is a ceramic sculptural artist and educator originally from Ghana. His work features what he calls “hybrid memories”, combining his experiences in both the United States and Ghana using clay, colorful yarns, and African fabric.

Macy Higgins, a born and raised Floridian, has created an immersive sensory experience titled “Sugar Trinkets”, where guests will be invited to indulge. Locals might recognize Higgin’s work which was recently featured at the Fairgrounds St. Pete in the form of the “Strawberry Room”.

Lauren Mann, a recent graduate of the University of Florida and now a Clearwater resident, Mann’s intricate colored pencil drawings seek to express familiar emotions through unique and intimate portraits. “In a time and space full of chaos and disappointment, it feels comforting to be able to stop and appreciate the innate beauty of the human figure going about simple and familiar tasks”.

Sam McCoy, born and raised in Orlando and now a Tallahassee resident, describes her home state as “a

sinking peninsula and constructed utopia, a swampland that teeters between the sacred and the profane”. Her contemporary paintings explore the contradiction of the natural beauty of Florida with that of a manufactured paradise, roadside attractions, and spectacles around every corner.

Sheherazade Thenard, originally from New York and now residing in Orlando, this Black woman scholar and second-generation child of immigrants from Martinique uses a variety of mediums including printmaking, drawing, and painting. Thenard’s work addresses the intersections of womanhood, sexuality, class, and gender roles expectations.

Morgan Janssen, a graduate of Sarasota’s Ringling College of Art and Design, “examines tropical imagery and packaged paradises” while celebrating the beauty of the Sunshine State.

Fresh Squeezed 6 will be the first showing for these blossoming artists and they are excited to be a part of an exhibition that promotes the early careers of visual artists. Several of these featured artists focus on notions of identity, emphasizing our individual differences while acknowledging our shared humanity while others celebrate the Florida landscape and what it means to live in “paradise”. Visitors will find a variety of mediums and themes presented, while collectively being inundated with color as a driving force throughout all the works.

Fresh Squeezed 6: Emerging Artists in Florida will be on view at the Morean Arts Center through June 23, 2022 and is free and open to the public.

The Morean Arts Center would like to thank the following sponsors for helping make ***Fresh Squeezed 6*** a continued success: Gobioff Foundation, First Citrus Bank, Lisa and Perry Everett and the Bank of Tampa.

For more information on the Morean Arts Center and upcoming exhibitions, artist opportunities and much more, please visit [MoreanArtsCenter.org](https://www.moreanartscenter.org).

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About the Morean Arts Center: The Morean Arts Center, with roots dating back to 1917 as the Art Club of St. Petersburg, focuses on an innovative, community-oriented approach to art and art education. The mission of the Morean Arts Center is to connect people with art and to contribute to the economic development of the region. Operating under the Morean Arts Center includes the Chihuly Collection, Morean Glass Studio and the Morean Center for Clay.