

Fresh Squeezed: Emerging Artists in Florida

The concept for this project came from perusing old scrapbooks at the Morean Arts Center, anticipating the organization's 100th anniversary in 2017. The group that began as the Art Club way back then, and developed into the Arts Center and then the Morean, has always had the same vision: supporting emerging artists and giving them the opportunity to exhibit their work.

Considering this century-old tradition, we asked the question: What would happen if we intentionally selected a handful of Florida artists each year, helped them along the sometimes-intimidating path of showing in a gallery, connected them with collectors and mentors, gave them a solo show, and then followed their progress over the years? What sounds like a science experiment is actually a tangible way of touting what the Morean already does—celebrating the artists who live in our region and demystifying what it takes to get their work on the wall where people can see and enjoy it.

Nearly 80 artists from across the state applied for the six slots we had to fill. The artists we selected: a photographer, a ceramist, a painter, an illustrator, a graphic designer and a performance artist, each had

the commonality of a distinctive voice and a cohesive, exciting body of work. While most artists dream of having a solo show in a gallery, we at the Morean consider ourselves the lucky ones: we are honored to present the first group of Fresh Squeezed artists to our community, and we look forward to seeing where their careers lead them in the years to come.

Thank you to the Board of the Morean Arts Center and staff members who made this project a joy to work on, including Kelsey Nagy, Beth Reynolds, Jonathan Harrison and Gretchen Suding. Thanks also to Betsy Orbe Lester and Tom Kaltenbaugh, who wield their hammers and power tools to make every exhibition look amazing. Our gratitude also to our generous sponsors, including The Gobioff Foundation, the State of Florida, Division of Cultural Affairs, and community supporters Lisa and Perry Everett. And last but certainly not least, thank you to the participating artists who took a leap of faith and trusted us to share their extraordinary work with our community.

Amanda Cooper
Curator of Exhibitions



Fresh Squeezed Gallery Talks

Join us every Thursday evening as a different artist discusses their work and their studio practice

March 23, 7pm

Marium Rana

March 30, 7pm

Barry Goodman

April 6, 7pm

Brian Feldman

April 13, 7pm

PCCA Seniors from Gibbs High School

April 20, 7pm

Chris Otten

April 27, 7pm

Penelope Livingston

Morean Arts Center • 719 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg, Florida

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The Gobioff Foundation
Lisa & Perry Everett
State of Florida, Division of Cultural Affairs



Emerging Artists in Florida
March 11–April 30, 2017





Brian Feldman
Orlando

Brian Feldman's work has been presented at venues all over the US. Brian Feldman Projects have garnered worldwide media coverage, including television, print, and blogs. He also has extensive experience as an actor, having made his professional acting debut at age 10 with Orlando Shakespeare Theater. Since then, he has performed in over 50 film, television and theatrical productions, working with four Oscar-nominated directors in the process.

For Fresh Squeezed, Brian will be in the gallery space each weekend during the run of the exhibition, making cups of fresh-squeezed Florida orange juice for visitors in exchange for a drawing.

"My performance work seeks to challenge, develop and emphasize human interaction and interpersonal relationships in real time about the facade of intimacy created by contemporary electronic social media. Highlighting everyday events clears up the boundaries between public and private space, to define time (what it is, how we use it) and to challenge societal definitions of norms. The original narrative of a performance serves as a framework, not as a restrictive script, so that spontaneous response can be created and the viewer can interact and participate within the event and not just be passively entertained."



Barry Goodman
St. Petersburg

Barry originally intended to become an architect, but studied graphic design instead before pursuing a successful career in design and illustration. He later studied printmaking at The London College of Printing (University of The Arts London). His prints and paintings have been widely exhibited both across the UK and internationally; some of these are now adorning walls as far apart as Streatham, San Francisco, New York and Naples. His work is held in public and private collections including The Library of Congress, Washington D.C. and The China Printmaking Museum, Shenzhen.

"Cartography, in general, requires a degree of artistic license. The maps we use today, although extremely impressive and comprehensive, are totally impersonal. Satellite GPSs, smartphones and Google do all the groundwork for us, and therefore will never have the romanticism of the travel-worn pocket map. When I first arrived in St. Pete, I set about discovering my new adopted home, not just the obvious features of the city, but the mundane and everyday elements of the urban fabric on foot. I wanted to record all of this, and what better way than a hand drawn map? What started on the kitchen table has grown into a very large scale map, covering in detail most of the city of St. Petersburg. Stretching from Downtown to the beach, it features my many observations, both factual, imagined and humorous."



Penelope Livingston
Tampa

Penelope Livingston was born in Atlanta, Georgia in 1976 and moved to Tampa in 1990. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art from the University of South Florida and also holds a Florida Teaching Certificate in Art. She worked out of a studio space in the Corina Cigar Factory for many years where she painted large scale representational compositions in oil, and currently works on small sketches and acrylic paintings in her Riverside Heights home studio.

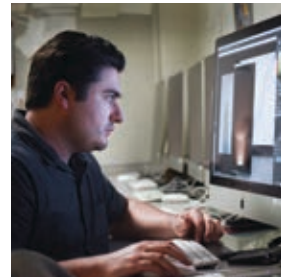
"Nostalgia, solitude, gratitude, the complexity of the mind and the simplicity of the soul: these are the primary elements upon which my work is based. I am inspired by people and places with a joyous spirit and a quiet humility. The skateboarder coasting downhill against a blue sky, the woman alone with her thoughts at the bus stop, or the aluminum porch awning supporting the weight of an heirloom vine: my heart sings with these glimpses into the gentleness of human nature and I hope to share that joy with others through my art."



Chris Otten
Tampa

Chris Otten was born in 1984 in Altus, Oklahoma. His interest in photography grew after exploring back roads along the Llano Estacado in West Texas. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Central Oklahoma and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of South Florida in 2011. He has exhibited nationally, including galleries in Annapolis, Long Beach, Minneapolis, Tampa and Wichita. He lives and teaches in Tampa, Florida.

"In my series *Encounters*, I have been looking at domestic spaces that I have occupied and various public outings around my current residence in Florida. For the longest time it was challenging to relate to this place. Even if the images come across as easily understood, that can be the grace of the work. Excluding extraneous subject matter, I noticed that the scenes were more introspective than my previous photographs. The scenes are not representative of Florida or any other place. Rather, they are a closer look at the curious nature of the mundane."



Marium Rana
Tampa

Marium is an American-born Pakistani artist. She is a graduate of Florida State University, where she received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art in 2013 and a Masters in Art Education in 2014. In 2011, she received an undergraduate research grant to study traditional Mughal miniature painting in Lahore, Pakistan. Marium has curated numerous art exhibitions, held solo exhibitions, and exhibited throughout the United States. She has served as the design chair for TED x FSU, and presented her research in miniature painting in workshops and symposiums.

"My current series, *A Place to Call Home*, delves into the complexity of belonging to two different cultures and trying to make a home out of stories of places and moments one has not personally experienced. The paintings depict landscapes that do not exist in our tangible world and seem as imaginary as the places that have existed before us."



Rebecca Zweibel
St. Petersburg

Originally from Connecticut, Rebecca holds a degree in psychology from Illinois State University. Rebecca lived in Colorado with her husband and two children for almost 27 years and availed herself of some art classes at the nearby community college while her children were in school. There she discovered clay, which became a focus for her from that point on. In 2008 she and her husband moved to Alexandria, Virginia. She joined a studio nearby and found that clay continued to absorb almost all of her attention. After five years in Virginia her husband retired, and they decided to move to St. Petersburg, in large part because of the artistic bent of the area and the availability of studio space in the Morean Center for Clay.

"Formation of my vessels begins with two identical slabs of clay that have been cut into freeform shapes that I find interesting. I attach them to each other and use my hands and various tools to add volume. The decorative elements of my vessels are driven by their sculptural forms. I draw through the applied colored layer to the base clay below; I find the use of dark clay emphasizes line and the intensity of color. My work is always changing. Clay gives me infinite challenges, inspiration and means of expressing my love of working with my hands."

