

Fresh Squeezed 2: Emerging Artists in Florida

Last year's inaugural Fresh Squeezed exhibition brought six emerging Florida artists into the spotlight with their paintings, photographs, ceramics, drawings, prints and yes, even fresh-squeezed Florida orange juice. This year, we continue our new tradition of selecting six artists from across the state—artists who are new to the gallery scene and are just beginning to flex their muscles in the exhibitions arena.

For this exhibition we culled through nearly 100 entries, narrowing down the list for the six gallery spots available. As usual, we were looking for artists who had a unique vision and a cohesive body of work—and something to say. Here are our Fresh Squeezed artists for 2018, in a nutshell:

Katrina Sarah Miller: a photographer, dancer and poet from West Palm Beach whose works speak to issues of female empowerment and resiliency in the midst of poverty and gentrification.

Jack Fields: an artist from Orlando who creates outlandish puppets out of disparate materials, and then casts them in roles in his short films.

Lauren Mitchell: from the Space Coast, her intrepid eye and love of the absurd turned a reluctant move to the Sunshine state into fodder for a new body of work.

Matthew Cicanese: hailing from Dade City and already a hit with the *National Geographic* crowd, his love of nature translates to exquisite photographs of ethereal worlds that literally exist under our feet.

Glenyse Thompson: a St. Petersburg resident who combines detailed, pensive drawing with washes of color to convey moods and emotions in her paintings.

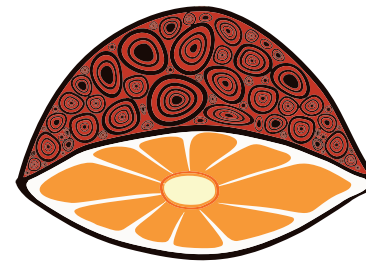
Catherine Gomez: a senior in the BFA program at USF, her interactive installation speaks to the roles we play in our daily lives, and the way social media impacts our perception of each other and ourselves.

We're so excited that these artists have chosen the Morean to make their exhibition debut, and we're proud to present their extraordinary work to you.

On behalf of the Board and Staff of the Morean, we'd like to thank some people who have made this project one of the most joyous we work on all year. Thanks to Kelsey Nagy, Beth Reynolds, Jonathan Harrison and Gretchen Suding for their insight during the selection process, and the studio visits that came later. Thanks also to Betsy Orbe Lester and Tom Kaltenbaugh who make every Morean exhibition look amazing. Big thanks also to our generous sponsors, including the Gobioff Foundation, the State of Florida, Division of Cultural Affairs, and beloved friends and community supporters Lisa and Perry Everett. And as always, thank you to these six fabulous artists for trusting us with their work—we'll be proud to say, "We knew you when...!"

Amanda Cooper

Curator of Exhibitions



Gallery talk with Lauren Mitchell and Glenyse Thompson

**Thursday, March 22
6pm**

Meet Jack Fields and his puppet creations during our Spring Fling Family Day

**Saturday, March 17
12pm to 2pm**

Also on view at the Morean Arts Center:

PCCA Senior Thesis Exhibitions

See works from seniors in the Pinellas County Center for the Arts at Gibbs High School.

Christopher Velez:
March 10–April 2

Nicolas Glenn:
April 5–15

Sara David:
April 17–27

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

Thank you to our generous sponsors!

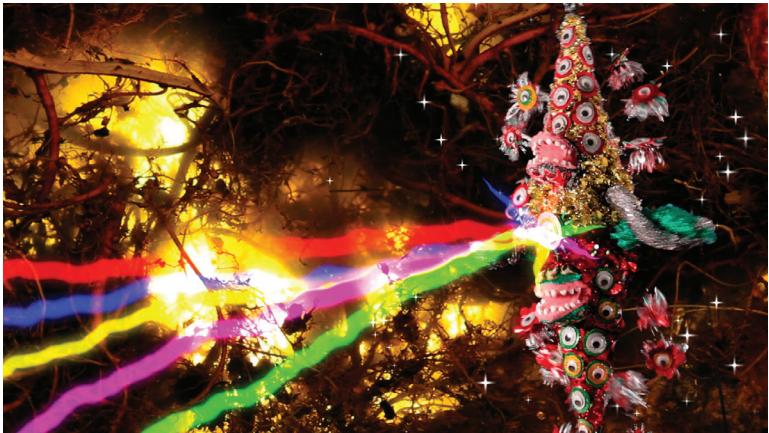
The Gobioff Foundation
Lisa & Perry Everett
State of Florida, Division of Cultural Affairs



FRESH SQUEEZED 2

Emerging Artists in Florida
March 10–April 27, 2018





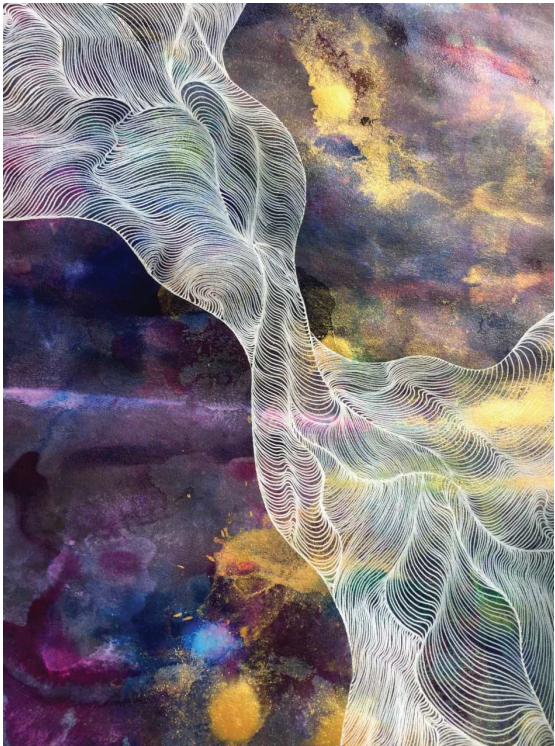
Jack Fields, *Happy Memories*, 2017, film still

Jack Fields

Orlando

Jack Fields has been creating puppetry since 2007. He has earned two United Arts of Central Florida grants, both for the creation of puppet films. His first film, *Happy Memories*, has been accepted into 15 film festivals. His music video for an official They Might Be Giants contest was one of three winners selected from one hundred fifty entries. Jack has received two scholarships: one from Puppetfest Midwest, and one from UNIMA. He lives in Orlando.

"My work is inspired by folklore, mythology, and the subconscious. It ranges from puppets that incorporate real teeth, glass eyes, and old sweaters to illustrations that feature the Krampus, a holiday demon of Germanic folklore. The underlying theme is similar, whether the inflection of the piece is cute, ghoulish, or naive: that of the stranger from another world wandering into ours, the displacement of normalcy by alien forms. This highlights the subservience of the individual to the society they inhabit, whether or not they choose to take part. There is darkness in functioning within a system."



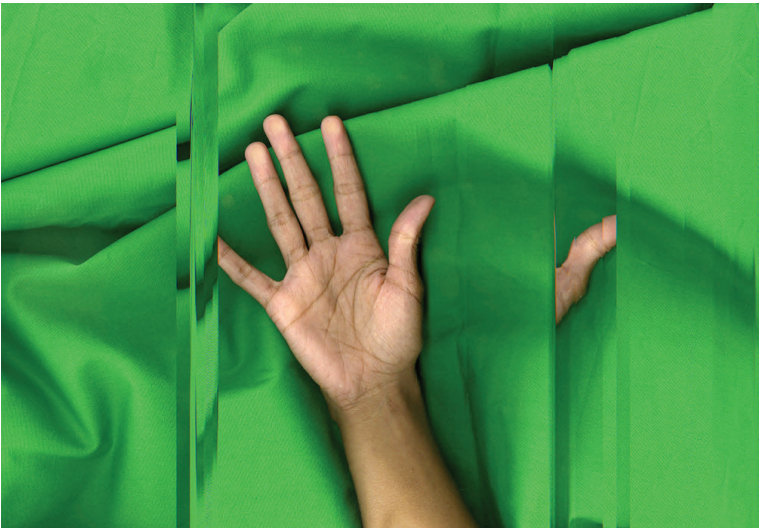
Glenyse Thompson, *Beautiful Hangover*, 2016, inks and acrylic on paper, 15 x 12 inches

Glenyse Thompson

St. Petersburg

Glenyse Thompson was born and raised in Chicago, and currently lives in St. Pete. She has participated in numerous group shows in the Tampa Bay area, including the Five by Five exhibition at the Tampa Museum of Art. She is a 2017 recipient of the Creative Capital Foundation for Individual Artists, Professional Development Program—Florida Department of State Division of Cultural Affairs with Citizens for Florida Arts, Inc.

"Utilizing lightfast permanent inks, acrylic and ink pen on panels or paper, my series is about conversations, opinions and arguments between people. Inspiration comes from the many interactions we have throughout our days with others. Background colors are used to demonstrate how lively the ebb and flow of discussions are and hand-drawn white ink illustrates how we converse with others during the course of a day, evening or at an event."



Catherine Gomez, *Scan One*, 2018, scanography, 31 x 24 inches

Catherine Gomez

St. Petersburg

Catherine Gomez was born in 1992, in Houston, TX, next door to Yoncé. Born to a beautiful single teen and thief. Raised mostly by strong, independent women, she grew up roaming the mountain sides of Colombia, napping in neighbors' bushes in Orlando, impulsive, and passionate as hell. She can't count to save her life and her dog is a jerk. Inspired to pursue fine arts by music videos, muralists, and cartoons, she aspires to integrate the audience in her work through New Media techniques. After studying abroad in Chile she will be graduating in the Fall of 2018 with her BFA from the University of South Florida.

"People are the most important aspects of our lives; they are far beyond the value of most of the essentials we need. It's because of this that I make



art. I need people, so I make the work. I need them, as much as they need art. It's a mutualistic relationship - my work revolves around communities. For this very reason, my studio practice is intentionally centered on human interaction. My current work in social engagement focuses on assembled installations that facilitate viewer participation. The installations are inherently cycles of work, where both the viewer and I process ideas of humanity and collective identity. In my work I seek to unseat established binaries like author/spectator, active/passive, and real life/art. These decisions all seek to further unify with the audience and activate it. To make an effort to bridge the chasm between artist and spectator, my work endeavors to collaborate with the public."



Matthew Cicanese, *Forest Light*, 2017, photograph, 48 x 72 inches

Matthew Cicanese

Dade City

Matthew Cicanese is a 26-year-old *National Geographic* Explorer, Emerging League Photographer with the International League of Conservation Photographers, and award-winning documentary artist based in the Tampa Bay region. As a deaf-blind survivor of infant meningitis, Matthew's art has evolved from his sensory deprivations. Matthew was a finalist in the 2015 Environmental Photographer of the Year Awards, and has displayed art in solo and group exhibitions including London's Royal Geographical Society, The Light Grey Art Lab (Minneapolis, MN), Power Plant Gallery (Durham, NC), Mahato Memorial Gallery (Durham, NC), and others.

"My process in creating photographic art that examines Earth's 'Underdog Organisms' and the microcosms they call home stems from the visceral excitement we feel as children when we discover new things. I peer through



my camera's viewfinder and enter worlds that can fit in the palm of my hand. Through this portal I experience dream-like scenes that unravel before me. I watch as residents the size of a pin prick slip into and out of existence—and freeze moments in time through macro photographs. My ultimate goal as a documentary artist and conservationist is to instill in humans the desire to slow down... get low to the Earth... look closer... and observe. It is here that they will discover worlds they have never imagined right beneath their noses. If they can find just one of these worlds, and experience that sense of childlike wonder through discovery of something entirely new, then maybe their visceral connection to Earth can be reborn."



Katrina Sarah Miller, *She does Arise and Remain in Flight*, 2016, photograph, 20 x 30 inches

Katrina Sarah Miller

Palm Beaches

Katrina Sarah Miller is an interdisciplinary artist interested in the various forms of poetic expression. Nurtured at the performing arts schools of Palm Beach, her studies included poetry, dance and photography. Upon attending university in Los Angeles at USC, she began working on interdisciplinary projects for the Institute of Polymathic Studies and Arts for LA. She has been working with photography for 8 years. She currently resides in the Palm Beaches.



"Through (my series) SABER, I hope to acknowledge the roles of women within a changing environment, the insignificant daily horrors and oppositions endured, the destruction of one's home, the dumping of trash in community spaces, using residential areas undergoing gentrifying as backdrop for this visual metaphor: the female forms within a political agenda is a reasonable sacrifice for progress. Women who cling to their naturality, use the tools of this earth to carry themselves into an uncertain future."



Lauren Mitchell, *Magic Kingdom*, 2017, photograph, 11 x 14 inches

Lauren Mitchell

Rockledge

Lauren Mitchell draws inspiration from her background in graphic design as well as the colors, vivid light and experience of residing in Florida. She was born in 1984 to a woman who commuted two hours each day to work in a cubicle and took her daughter to McDonalds so much that she got Happy Meal toys for free. She received her BA in Graphic Design and Art History from San Diego State. Lauren currently resides on the Space Coast of Florida with her husband and daughter. She is a photography instructor at Click Photo School.

"Through my work, I explore the idea of Florida as a place of fantasy and mundane reality existing side by side. My subjects are all threads weaved



through my ordinary/not-so-ordinary experience. Additionally, I am continually inspired by my neighborhood, even for the reasons why I very much dislike it. Though my images often depict brightly saturated scenes, there is always something slightly dark and odd lying just below the surface—much like how it feels to live in the sunshine state."