



For Immediate Release
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ANTON ART CENTER ANNOUNCES *FAMILIAL(AR)* EXHIBITION

The Anton Art Center presents *Familial(ar)* (pronounced 'Familial, Familiar'), a brand new exhibition curated by artist JenClare Gawaran that explores multicultural identity as formed by immigration through visual art composition. The exhibition features a selection of original artworks by artists Katayoun Amjadi, Francis Estrada, Lahib Jaddo, Jeanne Jaladoni, Marat Paransky, Ahtziri Perez, Arturo Rodriguez, and Nadia Shihab.

JenClare Gawaran is an artist and educator from Metro Detroit. She also collaborates with arts organizations to curate exhibitions. *Familial(ar)* is the Anton Art Center's first exhibit with Gawaran and the premiere guest-curated event of the year.

On organizing the show, Gawaran shares, "I sought out artists who are either the first or second generation of families who immigrated to the United States in the mid-20th century or later. Their work explores dualities of cultures, the evolution of cultural expectations, and customs with each new generation, as well as roots and ties with their familial and current homelands. These themes are expressed through the imagery of relics, landscapes, portraiture, or mementos of childhood."

The exhibit showcases artwork by artists from Minneapolis (Minnesota), New York (New York), Metro Detroit (Michigan), Toledo (Ohio), Brooklyn (New York), and Lubbock (Texas). Featured artists reflect on elements of their Cuban, Filipino, Iranian, Mexican, Turkmen, and Ukrainian heritages in combination with their American culture experiences.

Artist, Ahtziri Perez, shares, "I created an overlay of other photographs...on top of the portraits of my family [to] reflect the life that they could have had if they were born in Mexico. The portraits...serve as a reflection of my family's past and potential life experiences."

Artist, Jeanne Jaladoni, is a painter and textile artist born and based in New York City. Her practice involved personal research relating family stories to historic Filipino American archives in order to draw out a 'mythological' narrative that traces the complexities of inheriting two cultures.

Exhibiting artworks range in media, including serigraphy (silkscreen printing), watercolor, collage, video, charcoal, intaglio (printmaking), photography, and oil paint. The underlying theme of cultural identity throughout the exhibit is supported by additional subjects, such as gender, language, history, home, memory, peace, survival, storytelling, and more.



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Artist, Lahib Jaddo, shares, "...when the people of a community are separated from one another, when they can no longer speak their language or sing their songs together, the threads holding their culture begin to loosen. Against this threat of loss, culture is held tightly within each member of the tribe...so that it may reappear when conditions permit. My work emerges out of this desire to remember, preserve, and honor the culture that I belong to and that I love."

Artist, Francis Estrada, comments, "My artwork interrogates visual cues found in historical photographs, mass media, personal archives, and museological displays that continue to inflect our social narratives and cultural memory. By playing with the presentation of allusive imagery, I create a space that is uncannily recognizable, yet opaque."

The exhibition is open April 29th to May 26th, 2023, with an Opening Reception and Curator's Talk on Saturday, April 29, from 2-4pm at the Anton Art Center, Second Floor. This event is free and open to the public. All are welcome to visit us during gallery hours to explore the complex and personal experiences of these contemporary artists.

For questions or information, visit www.theartcenter.org or call 586-469-8666. The Anton Art Center is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization located at 125 Macomb Place, Mount Clemens, Michigan, with a mission to enrich and inspire people of all ages through the arts. The Anton Art Center is open for regular business hours Tuesday through Saturday from 10am-5pm; admission is free and open to the public, and the facility is handicap accessible. Metered lot and street parking is available; free parking on weekends.

The Anton Art Center (AAC) was founded in 1969 in the historic Carnegie Library building in walkable downtown Mount Clemens, Michigan. The AAC aims to build an open community around creative expression by presenting a wide array of programming to appeal to diverse audiences, providing support for the arts and becoming a focal point for arts programming, and working towards inclusion, diversity, equity, and access in all that we do. Our mission is to enrich and inspire people of all ages through the arts. Our funders include the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, the Kresge Foundation, Michigan Arts and Culture Council, the Erb Family Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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Familial(ar)

Sample images of artwork in the exhibit



Familial(ar) exhibit information card



Recuerdo con nostalgia la algarabía y lo colorido de los mercados. Extraño caminar por las calles y parar a comprar bolsos de fruta o nieves, ver los puestos de revistas, las artesanías de los vendedores ambulantes y muchas cosas más como las librerías.

A Life I Could've Had by Ahtziri Perez, 2022, Photography inkjet print (16x20 in.)



Warda by Lahib Jaddo, 2022, Collage (15x18 in.)



Letter to Baba by Katayoun Amjadi, Film still of video



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Sampal(ok) by Francis Estrada, 2014, Gouache, collage, charcoal, gold leaf on paper, vellum (16x20 in., framed)



Echolocation by Nadia Shihab, Film still of video

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