

Ready and Waiting

Selections by Marvella Muro

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JUROR'S STATEMENT

The title of this show *Ready and Waiting* is borrowed from a print in the exhibition; a timely title describing an era where paralyzing powerlessness hovers over the nation. The works in the exhibition express messages and explore shared issues relevant to local and global communities, including environmental disasters, mass disconnection and failed policies, to name a few. There is no question that the works of different mediums trigger a sense of urgency.

The artworks are installed in thematic groups. The topic of mental health is represented through **Alicia Cardell's** autobiographical zine displayed alongside a digital work by **Joel Berroteran** showing what may be a tiered homeless encampment, and a poster by **Juan Carlos Rodriguez Rivera and Esmeralda Velazco** calling out the epidemic opioid crisis. Related to this theme of a failed system are works by **Batul Bahrainwala and Gurleen Gill, Pat Calabro, Robbin Henderson, Marilyn Hill, Ian McClerin and Tim Belonax and Jane Chen**, that speak to gender equality, criminal and judicial systems, democratic processes, and immigration.

The largest group includes artworks that draw attention to many environmental issues. For instance, a color woodblock print by **Carol Brent Levin** shows an elephant chasing or perhaps defending a rhinoceros from a poacher. Works by **Miriam Fabbri, Barbara Foster, James Kleckner, Loren Rehbock and Karen Weil** reference deforestation, massive ocean dumpings, air pollution by chemicals sprayed through store-bought items, and even the end of the world.

Additional themes presented are immobilization (**Vivien Arnold, Jason Emanuel Britton and Hélène Paulette Côté**) and disconnection (**Gwen Manfrin and Julia Wolinsky**). *Ready and Waiting* by **Donna Brown** is part of a print series depicting a gathering of young people waiting for something to occur. The works in this group illustrate anxiety and anticipation for a shift in our current political and anti-humanitarian climate.

The exhibition concludes with the notion of looking ahead. While not providing solutions, works by **Francisco Rojas, Kim Vanderheiden and TheArthur Wright** help us reflect and encourage us to seek our past, our elders, faith, family and future generations to elevate the world's current state. This exhibition intends to inspire and unify communities of artists, and beyond, in the struggle for our collective future.

- Marvella Muro