

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Natani Notah / Mitzi Pederson / Lisa Williamson / Brenna Youngblood**

June 28 through September 8, 2019. Opening reception: June 28, 6 to 8pm

/ 687 Minna Street, San Francisco CA 94103. Open Wed through Sun, 11am - 6pm.

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The language of sculpture is the language of embodied space. Freed from a dedication to the wall, the space between art works becomes crucial to their framing, and as such, implicates the physical energy of the viewer more than any other art form. Indeed, the phenomenological implications of this sculpted viewership became crucial to the introduction of the body itself, gendered or otherwise, as a site for art working. This is a multilingual task, as the language of mind and body are distinct more often than not. Through its year-long series of two-person exhibitions, / has become a place dedicated to the language of space as it exists between artworks. Here, we take the opportunity to expand this concern through the airy quality of the summer group show.

Natani Notah's work appropriates the device of the assisted ready-made to develop a narrative that implicates not just her own body, but also the cultural body of a people written throughout history as other by others. Mitzi Pederson on the other hand largely eschews narrative, opting, instead, for a subtle manipulation of found material that favors abstraction and eludes an attempt at story, or, perhaps, a need for words at all. Meanwhile, body and language are made explicit in Lisa Williamson's work, as sculptures that resonate with the ontological weight and proportion of the human form converse with the aestheticized epistemology of the artist book. Finally, Brenna Youngblood strips the semiotic materiality of language and identity down to its essentials, as the linguistic becomes formal in her rigorous conceptual play of the typographic and the abstract. In each case, these artists exhibit a concern for the language space between objects and bodies as a means of understanding and articulating the terms themselves.

Natani Notah was born in San Bernardino, California and currently lives and works in the San Francisco Bay Area. Her work has been exhibited at galleries and institutions including The Holland Project, Reno, Edwin Zoller Gallery, Penn State University, Mana Contemporary, Chicago, Stanford University Art Gallery, and Root Division, San Francisco. She has been published in *As/Us: A Space for Women of the World*, *Yellow Medicine Review: A Journal of Indigenous Literature, Art and Thought*, *Sculpture Magazine*, and is forthcoming in the second edition of *Colonize This! Young Women of Color on Today's Feminism*. She is the recipient of the 2018-2019 Headlands Center for the Arts Graduate Fellowship.

Mitzi Pederson was born in Stuart, Florida, and currently lives and works in San Francisco. Her work has been exhibited at galleries and institutions including Ratio 3, San Francisco, Nicole Klagsbrun, New York, White Columns, New York, World Class Boxing, Miami, The Approach, London, Fused Space, San Francisco, White Flag Projects, St. Louis, the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, New Langton Arts, San Francisco, the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, Oakland Museum of California, The Aspen Art Museum, The Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, The University of California Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, and The MCA, Chicago. Her work was included in the 2008 Whitney Biennial.



Top image: Natani Notah, *Heavy Heels*, 2018 | Used rolling pin and handmade deer hide moccasins, dimensions variable. *Courtesy of the artist.*

Bottom image: Mitzi Pederson, *Untitled*, 2012 | Concrete and glitter; 8 elements, 12 1/4 x 14 1/4 x 7 3/4 inches. *Courtesy of the artist and Ratio 3.*

Lisa Williamson was born in Chicago, Illinois, and currently lives and works in Los Angeles. She has exhibited at galleries and institutions including LA><ART, West Hollywood, Tif Sigfrids, Los Angeles, The Finley, Los Angeles, The Box, Los Angeles, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, and CCA Andratx Kunsthalle, Mallorca. Her work was included in the 2010 California Biennial at The Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach and in the 2012 edition of Made in L.A. at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles.



Brenna Youngblood was born in Riverside, California and currently lives and works in Los Angeles. She has exhibited at galleries and institutions including Honor Fraser, Los Angeles, The Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, Pomona College Museum of Art, Claremont, The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, The Wignall Museum, Rancho Cucamonga, the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, The California African American Museum, Los Angeles, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, The Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, The Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, The Studio Museum in Harlem, Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, and the Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art, Fort Lauderdale. Her work was included in the 2008 California Biennial at the Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach and in the 2012 edition of Made in L.A. at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles.



Natani Notah / Mitzi Pederson / Lisa Williamson / Brenna Youngblood is the fifth in a year-long series of exhibitions, curated at / by Los Angeles based artist and film-maker Drew Heitzler. A limited edition zine-style catalog will be published for the occasion.

/ will host a panel with the exhibiting artists, moderated by Sam Vernon on the afternoon of August 18, 2019. More details to be announced soon.

/ is a nonprofit visual art space founded in 2018 to advance and promote the expanding field of contemporary art in the city of San Francisco through exhibitions, publications, and public programming.

Top image: Lisa Williamson, *Tender Dimension (Elephant)*, 2015 | Acrylic on wood, 30 x 25 1/2 x 32 1/4 inches. *Courtesy of the artist and Shane Campbell Gallery.*

Bottom image: Brenna Youngblood, *Fight to Win*, 2012 | Acrylic on Panel, 96 x 87 inches. *Courtesy of the artist and Honor Fraser.*