

Double Gaze

Works and performances by // Dawn Kim, Julie Oh, Lily Dithrich, Bailey Hikawa & Scotty Wagner

Curated by Kate Sierzputowski

March 9 - March 31, 2018

Opening reception: Friday, March 9th, 6-9 PM

As the crowd gathered to watch the sun set below the ocean's horizon one viewer turned away from the dipping orb, shifting her gaze towards a slowly descending drone. Seductively she narrowed her focus deep into its blinking retina, and began to perform for the aircraft by gently swaying her hips. Gradually she shifted her body from rhythmic undulations to unplanned spins and twirls, overly articulating her movements in an attempt to retain the overhead copter's trained stare. Every now and again she would pause her dance to coyly kick at the encroaching surf, never breaking eye contact with the hovering lens. If there was music inspiring her improvisational jolts it was contained within her head. The only sound that could be heard above the waves was the drone's incessant, needy buzz.

Although the machine's operator sat closely behind the dancer, his gaze was directed downward. Without ever looking up from his lap he returned her unfaltering stare, hypnotized by the hi-res imitation that swirled across his remote's small, embedded screen. As he continued to peer between his thighs his face shimmered wildly— a dazed smile illuminated by twin, tangerine suns.

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Double Gaze presents photography, video, and sculpture from five artists' interactions with a range of individual and government-based tracking systems.

Dawn Kim's images observe the candid actions of strangers from the lens of amateur drones. Connecting data mining and photography, the images are snapshots despite their pre-recorded subject matter—photographs that catch the digital subject by surprise.

Julie Oh's included sculpture and video dissect the passage of time through common iconography associated with the US postal service. Markings on shipped packages imitate visa stamps when scaled up to account for human size. *Documents*, an 8-foot-tall neon sculpture, becomes activated when traversed by the audience's bodies—its presence an invitation to pass through the rectangular form.

Lily Dithrich's sculptures are studies of human relationships, which produce narrative without the presence of a human form. Her altered furniture act as

placeholders for these connections, inviting the audience to play out their suggested roles. Within Double Gaze a bench and chair are inextricably linked, pulled tightly together by the binding of a bright blue ethernet cable. This work presents the relationship between the individual and an online audience, its installation a suggestion of a complicated entanglement.

Finally, Bailey Hikawa and collaborator Scotty Wagner react to our contemporary obsession with the endless documentation of the minutia of our daily lives through a durational live stream. Semi-improvisational scripts and cinematic tricks examine the possibilities associated with live video. A performance by Hikawa and Wagner will be streamed from their temporary studio at MOCA Tucson during the length of the exhibition's opening.

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Dawn Kim is an artist based in Brooklyn. She has never flown a drone.

Julie Oh is a Canadian artist living and working in the prairie city of Saskatoon. She graduated with a Master of Fine Arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2012 and since this time has shifted away from an autobiographical practice to focus more on nuanced, object experimentations using photography, video and installation. The works in this exhibition consider both her past and present approach to art making – bringing together transient aspects of objects, and observing how they relate to and often obscure the understanding of our everyday lives. Her recent projects include The New Normal, a traveling group exhibition of A4 documents/images curated by Hiba Farhat and Murat Adash, and Punctured Landscape, curated by Kegan Mcfadden at the Art Museum of the Americas. Julie would like to thank the Canada Council for the Arts for their generous support in realizing this new work at ACRE Projects.

Lily Dithrich was born in Oakland, CA and currently lives and works in Chicago. She received her BA in studio art from Oberlin College in 2013 and has since been honored with grants and fellowships from organizations including the Anderson Ranch Arts Center, the Luminarts Cultural Foundation, and the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. Through the manipulation and distortion of furniture, she illustrates both inter and intrapersonal human relationships. Much of her work addresses in/stability, co/dependence, isolation and mis/communication. She is currently in residence at Wedge Projects in Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood.

Bailey Hikawa and **Scotty Wagner** first collaborated in 2013 on an experimental play titled, "MOWOM." In the surreal sculptural set designed by Hikawa, Wagner plays Sheila McAllister, an alter ego of his who suffers from split personality disorder. In 2014, Wagner appeared in Hikawa's sculptural immersive performances at the di Rosa Preserve in Napa, California and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San

Francisco. In 2016, Hikawa and Wagner collaborated on a short performance titled "Freedom Finderz," about two women lost in the woods with only their spiritual hiking app to guide the way, performed at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles. Their largest and most recent work is a performance and a video titled "Trial Child: Nurture a Better Nature," about a society obsessed with self-control and where, Trial Child, a robotic replica of a couples' would-be child, is the newest technology. In 2017 the performance and the video of "Trial Child" were shown in Santa Barbara, Los Angeles and Minneapolis. Trial Child the Video will premier here at MOCA Tucson on March 3rd. Hikawa and Wagner are currently artists in residents for their collaborative work at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tucson, AZ.

Bailey Hikawa was born and raised in Los Angeles where she currently lives and works. She received her BFA in Painting and Textiles from the California College of the Arts, San Francisco. She is an artist, designer, art director and collaborator who creates paintings, art objects, sculptural immersive installation, sets for theater, film, advertising and performative collaboration. She is most excited in a landscape that is both foreign and familiar. Scotty Wagner is a performance, video and installation artist based in Los Angeles, CA and Northern Michigan. He received his MFA from the University of California Santa Barbara and his BFA from the University of Michigan. In an ongoing effort to understand both the power we give technology and its inherent power to awe us, he looks to our biological, social, ethical, cultural and economic structures to create insightful work about the human condition today.

Kate Sierzputowski is a freelance writer and curator based in Chicago. Fascinated by artists' studio processes, she founded the website INSIDE\WITHIN to physically explore and archive the creative spaces of Chicago's emerging and established artists. In addition to running INSIDE\WITHIN, Kate also contributes art writing to Hyperallergic, the Chicago Reader, and Teen Vogue, is a co-director of the artist-run gallery space Julius Caesar, and is half of the curatorial project Episode with Mary Eleanor Wallace.