



Summer Exhibition 2022

Grossly Affectionate

June 23 – September 5, 2022

East and West Galleries

Kate Casanova
Cristóbal Cea
Daisy May Collingridge
Sam Grabowska
Mr. Hanimal
Jennifer Pettus
Estevan Ruiz

Grossly Affectionate

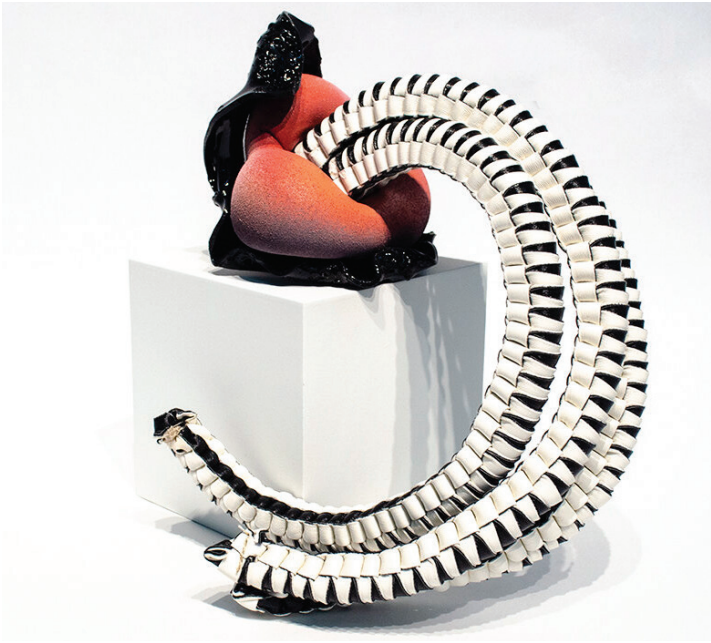
Grossly Affectionate explores hybridity and challenges the binaries of human/nonhuman, hard/soft, and organic/synthetic. The seven artists on view present works that allude to, reference, or abstract the body while resisting definition. Each artist plays with and pushes against the possibilities and limitations of materials, alluding to or referencing bodily form, while abstracting its appearance. As a result, the works on view evoke interpretations and undertones that reference a body, but are amorphous and defy definitive categorization. *Grossly Affectionate* presents the idea that a body can be a host of things: an architectural structure, a virtual space, a landscape, and even a humorous costume. The pieces are often unsavory yet oddly charming, strangely familiar, and consistently intriguing.

Daisy May Collingridge and Jennifer Pettus create pink, fleshy soft sculptures that act as characters and costumes. Both artists collect and hand stitch soft cotton and jersey, finding the potential for the extraordinary in these ordinary domestic materials. Pettus' soft sculptures unsettle our assumptions about what things are and what they can be. The artist joins together found materials, such as lace, human hair, and quilted flannel, through intricate stitching and creates the anatomy of a limitless thing. Her objects can be anything: a puppet, tool, piece of furniture, costume, sex toy, all of the above, or something entirely different.

Collingridge's "squishies" are charming characters that hop, skip, and dance their way into our hearts. Trained as a fashion designer, the artist has an interdisciplinary practice and creates work that resists definition as it sits between sculpture, theater, and performance art. Made from hand-dyed fabrics and cotton, wadding, and even sand, her bulbous cohort of characters spark joy. They bring warmth and softness, two signifiers of life according to the artist. Each flesh suit humorously celebrates flesh, movement, and diversity of form despite the initial shock that their insides may be on the outside!

Similar to Collingridge, Mr. Hanimal leans into humor and an artwork's power to entice a smile. His multicolored "hanimals," a hand-animal hybrid species, are crafted from recycled cardboard, clay, and enamel paint. These contorted, anthropomorphic beings, with fingernails for faces, initially stir up connections to spiders or insects creeping and crawling across the floor. The artist counters the initial repulsion by depicting the animals in brightly colored hues, making them more approachable, lighthearted, even familiar. The shifts between repulsion and attraction delight viewers as they are invited to feel more connected and at play with these animated bodies.

Sam Grabowska and Cristóbal Cea present the body as an architectural space or structure that safeguards and shelters the self. Grabowska says they are drawn to materials that simultaneously evoke an "ick" and "oooh" response. The artist achieves this sense of counterbalance through the intentional pairing of visceral materials, such as human hair, flesh-colored rubber, and building materials, with a conceptual framework that is more healing and restorative in nature. Grabowska's installations consider how built



Above: Kate Casanova; *Pleasure Pore* (detail); 2020; purse straps, plaster, thermoformed plastic, spray paint. Image courtesy of the artist.

environments can be sensitive, healing spaces that help individuals thrive and process trauma. Their work begins as a type of loose architectural drawing that explores how the shape or silhouette of a human body is an influential map informing the creation of a surreal or imaged space.

Cea's installation treats the gallery as a vessel or body that contains parts of a larger, unidentified whole. The artist reflects on the fragility of the personal body while exploring the hybrid nature of the virtual and the material in our present day lives. Cea questions the spiritual understanding that the body is a "temple" or sacred site because that implies a definitive inside or outside. His latest body of work, *The Extended Thing*, depends on the gallery to act as the body or vessel that maintains and preserves the fragments of a larger whole as they inhabit the walls, floor, and columns of the museum.

Casanova also considers structures and building materials as an extension of the body in that they can be read as metaphors for our internal architecture, such as the circulatory system or skeletal system. She creates abstract sculptures that are pluralistic, doubling as both what they are and what they look like. Casanova challenges how Western culture typically imagines a human being to be a single organism with a distinct inside and outside. She questions this concept and presents a body as an ever-changing system shaped by physical and societal forces. Her play with micro and macroscopic scale and use of materials range from fungi, bioplastics, and industrial matter imagine a posthuman body that is non-hierarchical and resists absolute knowing.

To learn more about the artists on view, please visit: bmoa.org/exhibitions/2022/summer/grossly-affectionate

Exhibition-related Programs

Opening Reception

Thursday, June 23

5pm member preview

6-8pm free public reception

Artist Talks

July 14

6-7:30pm

\$12 / \$8 members

Exhibiting Artists Kate Casanova, Sam Grabowska, Mr. Hanimal, Jennifer Pettus & Esteven Ruiz discuss Body/Form in-person at BMOCA.

July 28

6-7pm

Exhibiting Artists Cristóbal Cea and Daisy May Collingridge discuss Body/Form via Zoom

August 25

6-7pm

Exhibiting Artist Sofie Ramos via Zoom

Create Your Own Handcrafted and Colorful No-Sew Soft Sculpture!

August 13

11-1pm

Price \$40 / \$35 members

Join embroidery artist Steffie Notion in-person at BMOCA to explore your own idea of the body in all of its forms.

Current & Upcoming Exhibitions

Sofie Ramos: *DEEP END*

June 23 - September 5, 2022

InsideOut

El movimiento sigue

(The movement continues)

March 23, 2021 - October 23, 2022

BMOCA at Frasier

Belgin Yucelen: *Shifts Over Time*

May 30, 2022 - October 9, 2022

Fall 2022

Kristopher Wright: *Just As I Am*

September 29, 2022 - January 22, 2023

Erin Kang: *A Home Between*

September 29, 2022 - January 22, 2023

Plane of Action

September 29, 2022 - January 22, 2023

George Perez, Kevin Hoth, Margo Wolowiec

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Contemporary Art

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