

BERKELEY ART CENTER

1275 Walnut Street
Berkeley, CA 94709
510-644-6893
berkeleyartcenter.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS INQUIRIES

Daniel Nevers, Executive Director
info@berkeleyartcenter.org



Emma Robbins, *Treaty No. 2*, 2018, Fire Rock Casino playing cards and porcupine quills, 12-3/4 in. x 10-1/2 in. Image courtesy of the artist.

We have teeth too

October 10–December 19, 2020

Curated by Natani Notah

Artists: Natalie Ball, Jordan Ann Craig, Emma Robbins, Amanda Roy

“I took a bunch of old stoic photos, mostly Edward Curtis ones, and gave them smiles because we have them and teeth too.”

–*Amanda Roy, artist and filmmaker*

September 1, 2020, Berkeley, CA – Curated by Bay Area artist and educator Natani Notah, *We have teeth too* showcases powerful contemporary works by Natalie Ball, Jordan Ann Craig, Emma Robbins, and Amanda Roy. Inspired by Roy’s work, the title serves as a double meaning: *We have teeth too* first and foremost explores what it means to be human by disrupting Western notions of purity and focusing on various intersections of identity. It also refers to works that fearlessly touch on human rights violations across North America.

“It is my hope that *We have teeth too* reminds everyone that Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) are fully human, and despite both past and present circumstances, we possess the right to smile when we are victorious and bite back when our future depends on it,” says Notah.

Works in the exhibition span a wide range of mixed media including sculpture, painting, and photography with ties to the complex histories of portraiture, quiltmaking, Indigenous quillwork, and regalia. New sculpture calls attention to the ongoing fight for educational institutions to repatriate Native remains to the communities they were wrongfully taken from, while delicate works on paper bring greater awareness to the detrimental effects of radon poisoning happening in the Southwest today.

On their own and together, the pieces in this exhibition inspire a collective call to action, which is rooted in deep connections to community and conversations about representation in the arts.

“This show challenges all of us to see how we can turn lines of division into genuine pathways that lead to greater social accountability and more meaningful connections that exist beyond the binary,” says Notah. “In the face of incredible pushback, women of color have often been the backbone of historical movements and important change. Artists such as the ones featured in this exhibition have undeniably been instrumental in the progression toward justice.”

EVENT LISTING INFORMATION

What: *We have teeth too*
A group exhibition curated by Bay Area artist and educator Natani Notah that disrupts Western notions of purity by focusing on various intersections of identity. The show features contemporary works by Natalie Ball, Jordan Ann Craig, Emma Robbins, and Amanda Roy.

When: Saturday, October 10–Saturday, December 19, 2020

Gallery Hours: Wednesday–Sunday, 11am–5pm by appointment

Location: 1275 Walnut Street, Live Oak Park, Berkeley, CA 94709

Cost: Free

What: Curator Walkthrough with Natani Notah

When: Indigenous Peoples' Day, Monday, October 12 at 12pm PDT

Location: From the Berkeley Art Center via Instagram Live

Cost: Free

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Natalie Ball was born and raised in Portland, Oregon. She has a bachelor's degree with a double major in Ethnic Studies and Art from the University of Oregon. She furthered her education in New Zealand at Massey University, where she attained her master's degree, focusing on Indigenous contemporary art. Ball then relocated to her ancestral homelands to raise her three children. Her work has been shown nationally and internationally, including Half Gallery (New York); Vancouver Art Gallery; Nino Mier Gallery (Los Angeles); Portland Art Museum; Gagosian Gallery (New York); Seattle Art Museum; Almine Rech Gallery (Paris); and SculptureCenter (New York). Natalie attained her MFA in Painting & Printmaking at Yale School of Art in 2018.

Jordan Ann Craig is a Northern Cheyenne artist born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. She received her BA from Dartmouth College. Her work includes painting, prints, collages, textile prints, and artist books. In 2017, Jordan was awarded the H. Allen Brooks Traveling Fellowship as well as the Eric and Barbara Dobkin Fellowship at the School for Advanced Research. In 2019, Jordan was an artist-in-resident at the Institute of American Indian Arts (Santa Fe, NM), as well as the Roswell Artist-in-Residence Program. Currently, she is painting and printing in Roswell, New Mexico.

Emma Robbins is a native artist, activist, and environmentalist originally from the Navajo Nation in Arizona. She completed her BFA at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and studied Contemporary and Modern Latin American Art in Argentina. She currently splits her time between Los Angeles and the Rez, with her dog Cindy Sherman, where she works as American Projects Director for DigDeep, providing families on the reservation with clean, running water.

Amanda Roy is Anishinaabe from the community of Buzwah, which is part of the Wikwemikong Unceded reserve on Manitoulin Island. She is interested in native issues, particularly cultural preservation and resurgence, accessible art, and environmental issues such as alternative energy. Her first film project *Tio'tia:ke – Montreal* was made to address the question of where native culture is today, especially in an urban context. Through this she wanted to show people that native culture is still ongoing and being practiced today, but that it also requires a younger generation to pick it up and carry it on for future generations. Amanda attended the University of Toronto and McGill University. She currently resides in Montreal, Quebec, Canada and works for Mushkeg Media, a production company specializing in documentary films about the Aboriginal experience.

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Natani Notah is an interdisciplinary artist and educator. She is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation (Diné) on her father's side and part Lakota and Cherokee on her mother's. Her work has been exhibited at the Tucson Desert Art Museum; Gas Gallery (Los Angeles); The Holland Project (Reno, NV); Mana Contemporary (Chicago); and SOMArts Cultural Center (San Francisco). Notah has received awards from Art Matters, International Sculpture Center, and the San Francisco Foundation. She has been published in *Sculpture Magazine* and has had artist residencies at the Vermont Studio Center, Grounds for Sculpture, and the Headlands Center for the Arts. Notah holds a BFA with a minor in feminist, gender, and sexuality studies from Cornell University and an MFA from Stanford University. Currently she is based in the San Francisco Bay Area.

—end—

BERKELEY ART CENTER

1275 Walnut Street
Berkeley, CA 94709
510-644-6893
berkeleyartcenter.org

ABOUT BERKELEY ART CENTER

Berkeley Art Center (BAC) is a hub for artistic exploration and community building that champions work by Bay Area artists and curators. Nestled in Live Oak Park in North Berkeley, the gallery makes contemporary art approachable and accessible at an intimate scale. Since its founding in 1967, BAC has exhibited work by important local figures such as Robert Bechtle, Enrique Chagoya, Taraneh Hemami, Mildred Howard, Hung Liu, Jim Melchert, Chiura Obata, Sonya Rapoport, Betye Saar, Katherine Sherwood, Peter Voukos, and Carrie Mae Weems, among many others.

For more information and images, contact Daniel Nevers at 510-644-6893 or info@berkeleyartcenter.org. Berkeley Art Center is located in Live Oak Park at 1275 Walnut Street, Berkeley, CA 94709. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm by appointment. Admission is free. Website: www.berkeleyartcenter.org

Generous support for Berkeley Art Center is provided by the City of Berkeley, the Alameda County Arts Commission, the California Arts Council, the East Bay Community Foundation's East Bay Fund for the Arts, Fleishhacker Foundation, Mechanics Bank, and BAC's members and donors.