



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 31, 2022

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Left to Right: Rebecca McGee Tuck, *Prowess* (2019); Emily Williams, *#fuscotus: Bruen* (2022); Stephanie Todhunter, *Woman's Work* (2022).

Artists 'Speak Up' about the most pressing issues of our time in this exhibition opening November 5th at the Piano Craft Gallery.

Speak Up 2022

On view November 5th through November 27th, 2022

Juried by Antonio Viva & Petra Slinkard

Organized by Claudia Fiks, Arts Administration Association New England

Curated by Casey Curry

Opening & Closing Receptions:
November 5th, 6th, & 27th from 2-5pm

Exhibition Website:
www.CaseyCanHelp.com/Speak-Up

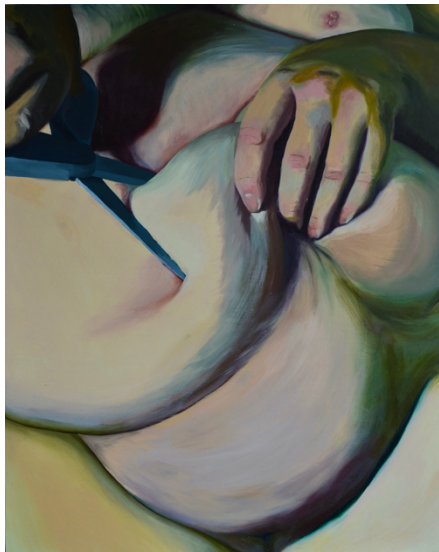
Piano Craft Gallery | 793 Tremont St.
Boston, MA, 02118

Hours: Fri 6-8, Sat & Sun, 12-5, and by
appointment

Boston, MA (October 31, 2022) – Claudia Fiks and the Arts Administration Association New England are pleased to present *Speak Up 2022* – the second iteration of an exhibition calling on artists to use their powerful voices to promote changes and awareness.

The exhibition's first iteration took place in 2020, spurred by the urgent need felt viscerally throughout the art community and beyond to speak up about issues of social and racial injustice brought to the foreground by the pandemic, the election, and the historic activist movements sweeping the country. This year's call continues that conversation by asking artists from New York and New England to use their craft to create a platform for discourse about the issues that persist and those that have emerged as the most pressing of our time.

The 50 pieces included in this exhibition were selected by jurors Antonio Viva, Executive Director of Artisan's Asylum, and Petra Slinkard, Director of Curatorial Affairs at Peabody Essex Museum, and focus on diverse issues through a broad array of materials and skillful techniques. Many works center on human rights, health care, oppression, and hope. There is a strong showing of artists addressing the climate crisis, often through upcycled artworks repurposing discarded materials. Other topics in the show include war, gun control, activism, and racial injustice. The exhibition presents an opportunity to reflect on the hard-learned lessons of our recent past and to imagine the just and equitable future we are called to create together.



Left to Right: Sophie Pearson, *What I would Do* (2021); Virginia Mahoney, *Privilege* (2021); Shannon Downey, *Child of God* (2022).

Exhibiting Artists

Adrienne Shishko
 Afsaneh Aynesazi
 Alexander Golob
 Anna Fubini
 Anna Kristina Goransson
 Antoinette M. Winters
 Ariel Basson Freiberg
 Bette Ann Libby
 Brenda Schweder &
 Maxwell DeMay
 Bruce Wilson
 Caron Tabb
 Deighton Abrams
 Derrick A. Te Paske
 Diane Grieco
 Domenic Esposito
 Emily Williams
 Erica Licea-Kane

Ibrahim Ali-Salaam
 Jamaal Eversley
 Janet Kawada
 Jeanne Ciravolo
 John Judge
 Katherine Downey Miller
 Kledia Spiro
 Laura Petrovich-Cheney
 Linda Hoffman
 Liza Foley
 Lizzy Alejandro
 Lucy Le Bohec
 Madeleine Lord
 Maggie Knutzen
 Martha Chason-Sokol
 Nevena Pilipovic-Wengler
 & Ariel DiOrio

Patrick Goguen
 Raquel Fornasaro
 Rebecca McGee Tuck
 Rebecca Skinner
 Robert Siegelman
 Ruth Scotch
 Samantha Fields
 Sarah Madeleine T. Guerin
 Shannon Downey
 Sherwin Long
 Sima Schloss
 Sophie Pearson
 Stephanie Todhunter
 Virginia Mahoney
 Wen-hao Tien
 Zachary Chomz

About the Jurors

Petra Slinkard: Petra is Director of Curatorial Affairs at Peabody Essex Museum. She is an experienced curator and museum administrator with a demonstrated history of working in the museum and academic industry. She is skilled in Art History, Curating, Education, Visual Culture, and Community Engagement. Strong arts and design professional with a Master of Science (MS) focused on Fashion History and Material Culture, with an emphasis in business and museum administration from Indiana University's School of Art, Architecture, and Design (Formerly COAS).

Antonio Viva: Antonio is executive Director Artisan's Asylum, Inc. He was the former head of Walnut Hill School for the Arts for 12 years. Antonio is an educator, researcher, artist, leader, and executive coach. He is a highly effective communicator, masterful storyteller, and bridge builder. He brings experience working in public and private education, technology, and global nonprofits at all levels. Antonio's mission-driven leadership is matched with an unwavering commitment to the core values of community, diversity, creativity, growth, and innovation. A lifelong diversity practitioner, his commitment to diversity, inclusion, and justice dates back to his early days as a public-school arts educator and most recently included groundbreaking anti-racism work and building a culture of restoration in predominantly white institutions.

About the Curator

Casey Curry: Casey is an independent curator, writer, and artist consultant who has been working with artists and arts institutions for over a decade. Casey is the founder of Casey Can, an artist consulting agency that focuses on finding the most aligned and authentic ways for artists to leverage their unique creative vision to make a real and lasting cultural impact. She holds degrees in English, Art History, and Nonprofit Management and has a wealth of experience managing exhibitions and building professional development opportunities for artists.

About Arts Administration Association New England (AAANE)

Founded by Claudia Fiks, AAANE supports art leaders of the arts and culture sector to achieve career advancement and knowledge exchange. They are known for their "Sip & Chat" series that brought arts professionals together during the pandemic. Claudia is the Director at Newton Open Studios and the Development Director at the Society of Arts and Crafts.

Gallery Hours & Associated Events The gallery is open on Fridays from 6-8 pm, Saturdays and Sundays from 12-5pm, and by appointment. All events are free and open to the public.

- Opening Receptions: November 5 and November 6, 2022 | 2-5pm
- Closing Reception: November 27, 2022 | 2-5pm
- Additional programming and events to come! Check the exhibition website for the latest updates! www.CaseyCanHelp.com/Speak-Up

About the Gallery

The Piano Craft Gallery, Inc. a 501(c)3 nonprofit, works to eliminate common barriers to accessing the arts, such as race, education level, and class by guiding our operation through an anti-racist and inclusive lens. The Piano Craft Gallery, Inc. does this by sharing, promoting, and celebrating the work of racially, culturally, and socio-economically diverse artists of all abilities with the public. This results in diverse networks of individuals accessing the gallery space and experiencing the arts. The Piano Craft Gallery, Inc. provides a free, handicapped-accessible venue in Boston where people can enjoy and learn about the diversity of artmaking and performing in the Greater Boston area. The Piano Craft Gallery, Inc. also provides an affordable community venue for public and private events.