



Critical Mass for the Visual Arts Announces *Public Works Project* Finalists

Critical Mass for the Visual Arts is pleased to announce three artists as finalists for the second in a series of temporary public art installation, the *Public Works Project*. The *Public Works Project* will commission one artist to create a temporary, site-specific public art project, at a site in Downtown St. Louis, focusing on the Riverfront, Gateway Arch and Kiener Plaza. The finalists are Lizzy Martinez, Margaret Keller and Steph Zimmerman.

[Lizzy Martinez](#) is a figurative, Latina artist based in St. Louis who often marries the cultural outputs of the past to talk about her social concerns of the present. Martinez advocates for women's and animal rights by borrowing and retelling their positions in works that have traditionally given the male advantage whether classic fairytales such as *Little Red Riding hood*, Homer's *The Odyssey*, *Aesop's Fables*, or H.G. Wells' *The Island of Doctor Moreau*. She finds unexpected female heroines whom our greater society has forgotten such as *Candy Land* inventor Eleanor Abbott or Annie Malone, the first black millionaire, and reflects on both the hardships and accomplishments women face through her work. She channels traditional techniques while considering the human form with a pointed, feminist, minority eyes to interpret symbolism and narratives both original and adapted from literature or film to enhance both humor and tension. Martinez is an alumni of Boston University and the Minneapolis College of Art & Design, an Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation and the Brand Boeshaar awardee and a winner of the Constantin Alajalov Scholarship among other distinctions such as her semester long exhibit in 2017 at the University of Missouri St. Louis, *Jumbled Time*. She has exhibited in the Mid-west, New England, and Ireland including the Figge Art Museum and is concurrently planning exciting artist in residence journeys that couple travel with lectures, creation, teaching, and exhibitions.

[Margaret Keller](#) works in related series using installation, drawing, digital media, painting and printmaking, as she examines the relationships between nature, contemporary culture and technology. Keller's current series include looking at surveillance, natural disasters and our experience of nature and the landscape in this digital age. She also focuses on the curatorial and critical aspects of contemporary art and has many published reviews, including *Delicious Line*, *Art in America*, *All the Art* and *temporaryartreview*. Keller has a degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a M.F.A. from Washington University in St. Louis in painting and printmaking. Her work has been exhibited in galleries, museums and collections throughout the United States, Berlin, Beijing and others. Recently, her art was at Quadratfuß/NX2-Annex Art Berlin, The Arkansas Art Center Museum in Little Rock, the RAC gallery in St. Louis, The Mitchell Museum in Mt. Vernon, Illinois, The Center for Contemporary Art in St. Louis, and Gallery 210 in St. Louis. Upcoming in 2019 is her one person exhibit *The Space Between* at The William and Florence Schmidt Art Center Museum, Illinois.

[Steph Zimmerman](#) is a multi-media artist blending text, design, sculpture and photography in her installation-based art. Zimmerman focuses on repetitive, often data driven themes to translate information into alternate forms of communication, such as converting personal texts into music and spatial coordinates or creating marketing materials for a satirical business to cover-over world atrocities. Her sculpture work often employs found objects in a minimalist style rich in texture and her skills as a writer often play a role in the visual narratives that she creates. Zimmerman has a BFA in Digital Media and Photography from Washington University in St. Louis. She has exhibited nationally and internationally, and has attended residencies at The Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, Vermont, Arteles Creative Center, Haukijärvi, Finland, and Paul Artspace, Florissant, Missouri. She lives and works in St. Louis, regularly contributing reviews to art magazines and journals.

Finalists will be presenting their concept proposals to a three-person jury in July. The selected artist will be awarded up to \$10,000 to design, produce and install and de-install a public artwork.

Critical Mass for the Visual Arts is a nonprofit, self-formed visual arts collaborative dedicated to promoting, enhancing and initiating contemporary visual art in the St. Louis region.

For more information contact Meredith McKinley, Via Partnership, 314.735-9462, mckinley@viapartnership.com