

ARCHIVE AS ACTION

Calcagno Cullen
Amanda Curreri
Lindsey Whittle

History is routinely placed in, and reduced to the past, but rarely does it live comfortably behind us. As access to information expands in the digital age, and prior events float in an indefinite present, the notion of the archive as a fixed absolute slides to that of malleable clay. Extending the "Open Archive" theme of the most recent FotoFocus Biennial, this exhibition convenes a trio of Cincinnati-based artists who re-animate historical materials through a performative and participatory lens. Calcagno Cullen orchestrates a fundamentally shared practice in which the production of objects is placed in service to the gathering of community. As an artist, curator, organizer, entrepreneur and executive director, she has turned the operation of an organization into an exploratory art practice. The legacies of radical queer and feminist causes, as well as blue collar labor movements, endure as the touchstones of Amanda Curreri, even as they remain partial and unresolved. As muses that live in a perpetual state of

becoming, these campaigns are manifest in an inventory of remnants that she collages into humble, human assemblage. Lindsey Whittle draws upon a similarly eclectic landscape of pop culture fodder to construct an expansive language of embryonic shapes that underpins her playfully transgressive practice. Like open code with endless application, this amorphous alphabet plays out across dress patterns, welded forms, interlocking acrylics, hook & loop clothing, and room-sized installations that are activated via the bodies and dialects of her many collaborators. In each of these environments you, the audience, are nudged from passive observation to gathering agency, as our voices and stories circulate across a series of workshops, gatherings, performances, and actions.

Archive as Action: Calcagno Cullen, Amanda Curreri, Lindsey Whittle is curated by Steven Matijcio and is on view until June 16, 2019. This exhibition is generously supported by 1919 Investment Council and Artswave Corporate Sponsor: GE.