

Stress implies pressure. It demands, exerts, snaps, and splinters. Stress is felt in the body and seen in materials that wear over time. Glass shatters with blunt force; ligaments tear with tension. Wood splits, and bones break.

*DISTRESS TOLERANCE* presents works by seven artists who draw on concepts of durability and model ways of enduring exposure to continued strain. The exhibition title borrows a clinical term used to describe a person's ability to tolerate moments of emotional distress, as first presented in dialectical behavioral therapy, a therapeutic practice developed in the late 1970s by American psychologist Dr. Marsha Linehan.

From a hanging mass made of and adorned with industrial materials to a gritty rectangular form in which soap evokes bodily decay, the artworks on view consider thresholds of resilience and ask what possibilities they might hold for reflecting on the psychological and embodied aspects of stress.

The exhibition includes works by Bri Williams, Mona Hatoum, Brittni Ann Harvey, Rodney McMillian, Shannon Cartier Lucy, Janine Antoni, and Bryce Kroll.

Curated by Claire Sammut

*DISTRESS TOLERANCE* is part of Interference, organized by CCS Bard's graduating class of 2022. The exhibition is on view at the CCS Bard's Hessel Museum of Art from April 2 to May 29, 2022.