



Add Space
Curated by Maryam Amirvaghefi
October 2 - October 28, 2023
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Add Space is a project created to bring artworks to public spaces traditionally used for advertising in Tulsa, OK. The ninth iteration of this project, curated by Maryam Amirvaghefi, will feature works by artists Lyndon Barrois Jr., Mehrdad Mirzaie, and Abigail Smithson on billboard spaces throughout downtown Tulsa.

Statement from curator Maryam Amirvaghefi:

The relationship between art and sport on city billboards is a dynamic fusion of creativity and athleticism. In the urban landscape, billboards serve as canvas and stage, where these two seemingly distinct worlds come together to capture the essence of human expression. The bold, vibrant advertisements for sporting events often incorporate artistic elements, such as striking visuals and captivating typography, to convey the excitement and energy of the games. On the other hand, the intersection of art and sport plays a pivotal role in addressing gender equality and engaging with political and social issues. In this synergy, artists and athletes become advocates, challenging traditional gender norms and sparking important dialogues.

-Maryam Amirvaghefi

Lyndon Barrois Jr. (b. New Orleans, LA) is an artist based in Pittsburgh, PA and an Assistant Professor of Art at Carnegie Mellon University. He is half of LAB:D, with artist Addoley Dzegede, with whom he has collaboratively staged four exhibitions, and co-authored a book of essays (Elleboog, at the Jan van Eyck Academie in 2019).

He uses cinema as a means to travel both temporally and geographically, bringing to mind ideas of anachronism, simultaneity, and reanimation. Looking at branding strategies of old cinema—along with the phased-out profession of shooting film stills—he considers these methods ways to represent a film that has yet to be seen. Another current body of work investigates how fashion images function as constructed figments of the imagination onto which we project our desires and lived realities. In various ways, Barrois navigates questions around color, control, taste, waste, and the layering of information.

Barrois Jr. received his MFA from Washington University in St. Louis (2013), and his BFA in painting from the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore (2006). He has completed

residencies at LATITUDE Chicago, Loghaven, the Van Eyck Academie in Maastricht (Netherlands), Fogo Island Arts in Newfoundland, and the Irish Museum of Modern Art in Dublin, Ireland.

Mehrdad Mirzaie is a multidisciplinary artist from Iran, based in the US, whose work predominantly revolves around the image-based medium with a deep focus on reinterpreting images of the past and the interplay between past and present. Currently pursuing an MFA in photography at Arizona State University.

Born and raised in Tehran, Mehrdad received his BFA in photography from the Tehran Art University in 2012. His artistic practice has shown an exploration of the power of images as vessels of historical narratives. With a keen interest in archives, image studies, and alternative processes, Mehrdad delves into the complexities of the relation of history and narrations.

Over the past decade, Mehrdad has contributed to various archive projects, both individually and as part of collaborative teams. His studies to reimagining history are not limited to the medium of photography alone; rather, he uses a diverse range of artistic mediums to visualize his thoughts. This interdisciplinary approach encompasses political, societal, and cultural dimensions.

Mehrdad's artistic process is rooted in his interest in the history of photography, which serves as a wellspring of his inspiration. His exploration extends beyond physical photographs and delves into the realm of mental imagery, where he contemplates the narratives behind the images and seeks to shed new light on established historical narrations. Mehrdad tries to generate a discourse that invites viewers to critically engage with the image of the past, and also he tries to spark conversations that traverse time periods and prompt contemplation of the intricate relationship between history and contemporary society.

Abigail Smithson is a visual artist and a Lecturer in the Art+Film Department at Cal Poly Humboldt in Arcata, CA. Her art practice is rooted in the appreciation, translation and act of archiving photographs and objects. The game of basketball has been a longtime muse for her and she follows and believes firmly in the New Craft Artists in Action collective motto, which is Participation vs. Spectatorship when it comes to sports. Through her podcast Dear Adam Silver as well as her visual work, she questions the current narrative around sports and art and how the two cultural entities overlap and live side by side. She was born and raised in Redwood City, CA.

Add Space was made possible by the generous support of the Tulsa Artist Fellowship.

Work locations:

Lyndon Barrois Jr. "Great Expectations"
215 S Elgin Ave. Tulsa, OK, 74120

Mehrdad Mirzaie "Froozan Abdi"
209 W 11th St. Tulsa, OK 74119

Abigail Smithson "Dear Alley-oop"
591 W 3rd St Tulsa, OK 74103