

## What they said

28 MARCH - 9 MAY 2025

A showing of unity through agreement, generally toward an unpopular opinion.

John W. Bateman - SHENEQUA - Saumitra Chandratreya - Joel Ebner -  
Dan Gamble - Ted Gram-Boarini - Ted Hamel - David Krueger - Lawrence  
M. - Tim Stone - James Schenck - Lisa Solar - Oly Trindl - Maria Vanik -  
Frank Vega - Jean Wilson

Guest curated by **Facility**.

Opening reception:  
Friday March 28, 2025  
5:00 - 8:00 pm

Hours with the guest curators:  
May 2nd, 2025  
6:00 - 8:00 pm

***Facility*** is a place. It's a multi-disciplinary creative space. And it's home to Cave Studio, Faust Special Projects, \$oundsuit\$hop and Facility Foundation while also serving as a creative hub for other artists, artisans, designers and architects. Additionally, Facility plays host to myriad pop-up special projects such as exhibitions, performances and fresh retail experiences.

*Facility is a philosophy.* It believes that art and design can create peace, build power, and change the world ... that by fostering an environment and community built from your dreams you will wake up daily within your destiny.

*Facility is an action agent.* It reaches deep into our communities, employing the

collective powers of art and design as a means to empowerment and social change. Facility Foundation provides scholarships and opportunities for young, promising and emerging artists, collaborations with fierce, like-minded established artists and partnering with outside, organizations and institutions to galvanize their outreach programming.

Artist and designer **Bob Faust** (b. 1967, Chicago, IL; lives and works in Chicago, IL) crafts work with typography at its core and viscosity on its surface. Faust has also been the principle and creative director of Faust, a cultural branding studio, for over 30 years. He makes his work with purpose first-to inform, empower, and/or instigate in the service and celebration of human difference. His conceptual art practice defies categorization and genre, with text, patterns, and the ideas of surprise and discovery emerging as through lines. In addition, Faust is the professional and personal partner of artist Nick Cave. Together they founded Facility: a non-profit multi-use creative space in Chicago that seeks to build community and change the world through art and design. Faust has been recognized nationally and internationally for his inimitable creativity. Honors include a University of Illinois, College of Fine & Applied Arts, 2022 Distinguished Legacy Award and City of Chicago, 2022 Mayor's Medal of Honor. Exhibitions include Mass MoCA BY The Numb3r5 (Mass MoCA), For And Nor But Or Yet So (Poetry Foundation), WA/ONDER (167 Green), with all, and still... (The Peninsula Chicago), Rapt on the Mile (The Magnificent Mile Association), Ways and Means (Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events and The Chicago Transit Authority), About Face: Stonewall, Revolt and New Queer Art (Wrightwood 659), Great Ideas of Humanity: Out of the Container (Chicago Design Museum), guilty / innocent (MASS MoCA); Unfolded: Made with Paper (Chicago Design Museum), Betweens (Riverside Arts Center), and CHGO DSGN (Chicago Cultural Center). He has also received recognition from The New York Times, Fast Company, the Chicago Tribune, Newcity, NBC 5 News, the Chicago Sun-Times, CBS Evening News, and T: The New York Times Style Magazine.

**Nick Cave** (b. 1959, Fulton, MO; lives and works in Chicago, IL) is an artist, educator and foremost a messenger, working between the visual and performing arts through a wide range of mediums including sculpture, installation, video, sound and performance. Cave is well known for his Soundsuits, sculptural forms based on the scale of his body, initially created in direct response to the police beating of Rodney King in 1991. Soundsuits camouflage the body, masking and creating a second skin that conceals race, gender and class, forcing the viewer to look without judgment. They serve as a visual embodiment of social justice that represent both brutality and

empowerment.

Throughout his practice, Cave has created spaces of memorial through combining found historical objects with contemporary dialogues on gun violence and death, underscoring the anxiety of severe trauma brought on by catastrophic loss. The figure remains central as Cave casts his own body in bronze, an extension of the performative work so critical to his oeuvre. Cave reminds us, however, that while there may be despair, there remains space for hope and renewal. From dismembered body parts stem delicate metal flowers, affirming the potential of new growth. Cave encourages a profound and compassionate analysis of violence and its effects as the path towards an ultimate metamorphosis. While Cave's works are rooted in our current societal moment, when progress on issues of global warming, racism and gun violence (both at the hands of citizens and law enforcement) seem maddeningly stalled, he asks how we may reposition ourselves to recognize the issues, come together on a global scale, instigate change, and ultimately, heal.



**Frank Vega**

*Unidad-Float*, 2022

Feathers, enamel, spray paint on canvas

24 x 24 in.

61 x 61 cm.



**Oly Trindl**

*Walking into the Woods*, 2024

Acrylic and paint marker on canvas

9 x 9 x 2 ½ in.

22.9 x 22.9 x 6.3 cm.



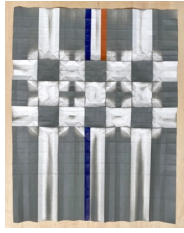
**Ted Gram-Boarini**

*Desire From Hell*, 2023

Acrylic on canvas

11 ¼ x 17 ¼ in. framed

28.6 x 43.8 cm.



**Lisa Solar**

*Military Box Pleat*, 2021

Spray paint and pencil on folded paper

21 x 16 ½ in. framed

53.3 x 41.9 cm.



**James Schenk**

*FLUID FORMS*, 2024

Marker, gesso and taped scraps on newsprint

36 x 48 ¼ in.

91.4 x 122.6 cm.



**Jean Wilson**

*3 Headed Dog*, 2024

Acrylic on paper

20.5 x 26.5 in. framed

48.3 x 61 cm.



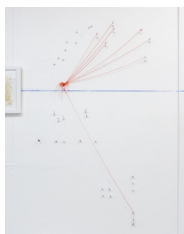
**Ted Hamel**

*East Broad Top*, 2024

Gel ink on paper

9.5 x 14.5 in. framed

20.3 x 30.5 cm.

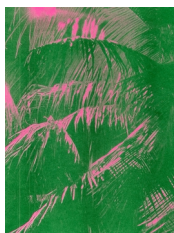


**John W. Bateman**

*Reader*, 2025

Mixed media (tpins, letter tiles, thread)

Dimensions variable



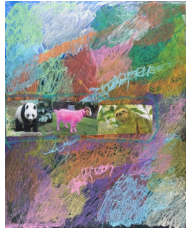
**Saumitra Chandratreya**

*South Beach Sultry*, 2025

2 Color Risograph on Landmark Vellum Paper

20 ¾ x 16 ¾ in. framed

52.7 x 42.5 cm.



**Lawrence M.**

*Pink Giant Panda Bear*, 2024

Acrylic, inkjet prints and paint marker on canvas  
board

21 x 17 in. framed

50.8 x 40.6 cm.



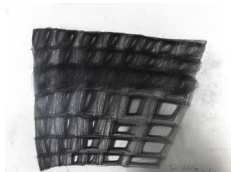
**Dan Gamble**

*Untitled*, 2024

Pencil on paper

13.75 x 13.75 in. framed

25.4 x 25.4 cm.



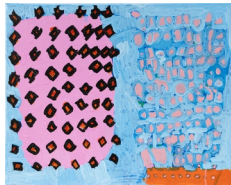
**Tim Stone**

*Darkest as Night*, 2024

Graphite on paper

20 ½ x 26 ½ in. framed

52.1 x 67.3 cm.



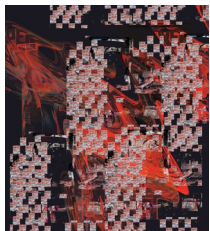
**Maria Vanik**

*Diamond Drop*, 2019

Acrylic on canvas

17 x 21 in. framed

43.2 x 53.3 cm.



**Joel Ebner**

*Untitled (Prepper)*, 2025

UV print on Dibond

40 x 36 in.

101.6 x 91.4 cm.



**SHENEQUA**

*Multi-Color Roller Up II*, 2018

Cotton, synthetic hair, plastic rollers, bobby pins,  
metal, and spray paint

82 x 17 ½ in.

208.3 x 44.5 cm.

**David Krueger***Breakin' Down the Wall*, 2022

Acrylic and marker on wood panel

20 x 16 in.

50.8 x 40.6 cm.

**John W. Bateman** writes and draws stories hiding in plain sight. His work has appeared in places like Ponder Review, Salvation South, the Chicago Tribune, Electric Literature, as well as on the silver screen and gallery walls. He has a not-so-secret addiction to glitter and, contrary to his southern roots, does NOT like sweet tea. John has an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and was a 2023-24 Watson-Brown Fellow in the Southern Studies Fellowship in Arts & Letters. John is currently living near the third star to the left. You can find him virtually at [www.johnwbateman.com](http://www.johnwbateman.com).

Born and raised in Mumbai, **Saumitra Chandratreya** is a Fiber-Installation artist who lives in St. Petersburg, FL and Chicago, IL. He graduated from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2017 with a Master of Design in Fashion, Body and Garment. He has a BFA in Textile Design from the Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology in Bengaluru, India.

Chandratreya was awarded one of the Individual Artist Grants from St. Petersburg Arts Alliance in 2020, Emerging Artist Grants from Creative Pinellas in 2018 and he was one of the emerging artists at the 2019 Gasparilla Festival of Arts in Tampa, FL. Chandratreya was one of the selected artists for Inaugural Qinfolk Festival in Ithaca, NY in 2019. He was one of the Finalists who exhibited at the Union League Club of Chicago for Luminarts Cultural Foundation Visual Arts Fellowship Show. Chandratreya was awarded the Shapiro Graduate research fellowship at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and was nominated by his department for the James Nelson Raymond Fellowship while studying at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. His works have been collected nationally and internationally in private and public collections including in major institutions. Chandratreya has shown in group and solo shows in Canada, Germany, India, Ireland, Japan, and United states. Chandratreya's work has been exhibited at the John and Mable ringing Museum of art among other major institutions recently. Chandratreya is an active member of 24-Hands Printmaking collective and Collate Printmaking Collective. He is a Full Time Visiting Artist at SAIC for 2024-2025 school year.

**Joel Ebner** is a multidisciplinary artist who lives and works in Chicago, IL. His work addresses what it means for us to be living in an age of rapid technological advance, and in particular, how access to information via digital technology shapes how we see, how we interact, what we consume, and what we believe.

With years of experience in the design industry-first as a print-based marketing designer, and later via UI and digital products-Ebner's work also deals with mediums of communication and how design frames our understanding of the world.

**Dan Gamble** was born in Beloit, WI. He received a BFA from the University of Wisconsin and an MFA from the University of New Mexico. He lived in Chicago for nearly 30 years where he exhibited work at numerous venues including the Roy Boyd Gallery and The Chicago Cultural Center. He currently lives in Mason City Iowa.

Born in 1984, **Ted Gram-Boarini** is at once a visual artist and musician, and his preferred modes of artistic expression are mutually influential. This is witnessed in the mesmerizing rhythm of his brush strokes, and in the artistry of the lyrics he has written as a member of the North Shore studio band, Van Go Go. Gram-Boarini reimagines music and movie references into acrylic paintings on canvas. Distinctively, his introspective nature and personal connection to the reference always shine through. Gram-Boarini allows us to see him through his work, while leaving space for the viewer's personal reverie. Ted is also a member of the agency's educator track and has given artist talks in other community spaces. His work has been included in Spirits guest curated by Eli Greene and Devin T. Mays and Perceptions of Flow: Movement at the Evanston Art Center.

"The weirder the better. I like being out there with the titles I do. I want all these images I use as reference to show who I am as a person and where I get ideas from. I use the image and then kind of abstract from that. It's how I hold on to the image in my head and then make it as abstract as I can."

To view **Ted Hamel's** (b. 1990) artwork is to enter a strange and delightful world of fictional characters from the silver screen interacting with political figures, current events, train lines and locomotives. Ted finds meaning in his artwork by exploring his emotions through subject matter and color in his narrative based artwork.

"It helps me feel my feelings. Red: that's an angry color. Dark blue: sadness. Yellow for happiness. Pink is a love and happiness color."

Ted presents raw emotion in his artwork. The results are engaging and relatable as the viewer witnesses feelings of anger, sadness and rage in reaction to news media reporting.



"I'd like to work harder. Get stuff out of my head. It's when I sleep. Dreams and sometimes nightmares."

Born in 1962, **David Krueger** approaches everything in life with boundless enthusiasm and imagination. Heavily inspired by pop culture and storytelling, Krueger's work is saturated with symbols, vibrant colors, graphic shapes, and detailed patterns. His geometric style is characterized by horizontal bands drawn across the canvas which break up the frame into narrative sections, reminiscent of comic book layouts. Between these lines, he incorporates elaborate decorative elements that include stars, zigzags, squares, crosses, X's, and radiating lines.

Krueger's previous exhibitions include *Art Fair Asia Fukuoka* with Sho +1 in Japan, *Untitled Art Fair* in Miami, the *Outsider Art Fair* in NYC, *In Good Company* at the Chicago Cultural Center, as well as *Dog Show* and *All Well and Good* at Circle Contemporary. He has an ongoing collaborative practice with artist Ben Marcus, creating comics about the character Love Man. Krueger's practice has been featured in *Disparate Minds* and he can be heard on the Arts of Life Band's 2017 album *Kinda Weirdy*.

"I make paintings with my own two hands - these are my tools. These are the magic fingers, I've got the Midas touch. I get ideas from watching TV or my imagination. My brain tells me everything and I'll do a sketch. It could be any sketch I choose, then I draw it out on canvas. Everything fits together like a jigsaw puzzle. People like my art, they say 'Ohhhh Krueger, you've got talent!'"

Born in 1994, **Lawrence M.** joined Arts of Life to begin developing his studio practice. Working primarily in drawing, painting, and collage, he engages with a process and aesthetic reflecting his everyday interests - gathering imagery of animals, watching cartoons, and a spontaneous layering of diverse materials and ideas. Lawrence also enjoys traveling with his family, spending time with friends, and playing basketball, shot put, and a variety of other sports. Among other exhibitions, his work has been included in *Duck Feet* guest curated by Ricardo Partida, *If a Mountain Could Love* guest curated by Cody Tumblin, and *Dance Dance Dance* guest curated by Tyson Reeder.

**James Scheck** lives and works in Chicago, IL. He received his MFA at The University of Cincinnati, DAAP School and his BA from Vassar College. He was raised out of Cincinnati, OH and spent most of his life traveling and observing; weaving a unique career that blends art, entertainment, and commercial styling. His conceptual practice is at the heart of all his actions, and he always lets his artistic spirit guide the way. Schenck is the Gallery Manager at ENGAGE Projects and is professionally



represented by Ford Artists.

**SHENEQUA** is an Afro-Caribbean multidisciplinary Artist and Teaching Artist who received her Master of Design in Fashion, Body, & Garment at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago under the mentorship of Nick Cave. Founder of Weave Your Dreams Into Reality Studios LLC, she shares her stories with the world one thread at a time using the traditional craft of weaving, her familial background, conversations with others, and her Ghanaian experience.

She has collaborated on the Identity Column III with Germane Barnes: Columnar Disorder at The Art Institute of Chicago museum in Chicago, IL and exhibited her works Wove at 108 Contemporary in Tulsa, OK, in Continuum at Textile Center: Joan Mondale and Mary Giles Galleries in Minneapolis, MN, UNCONVENTIONAL: THE LEGACY OF JOSEPH BEUYS at Goethe Pop Up in Kansas City, MO, Deep, Far, Home at Epiphany Center for the Arts in Chicago, IL, and Performing Labor at Patricia Sweetow Gallery in San Francisco, CA to name a few.

SHENEQUA's professional achievements include being a 2022 For Freedoms Fellow from For Freedoms in New York, NY, and a Center for Craft Career Advancement Fellow from the Center for Craft in Asheville, NC. She has also been recognized as a Featured Artist for Ties that Bind in American Craft Magazine. Her work has been acknowledged in the Kansas City Star, where she discussed her process of weaving synthetic hair about the African-American hair Experience. Notable lectures include the Distinguished Artist Series at James Renwick Alliance For Craft, the Museum of the African Diaspora in San Francisco, the Surface Design Association, and the Arlington Heights Memorial Library. She was 2014's Windgate Fellow of the Center for Craft and 2017-2018's recipient of the inaugural YoungArts Daniel Arsham Fellowship, presented by the Ridinger-McLaughlin Family.

**Lisa Solar** (b. 1973, United States). I currently live and work in Chicago and have had or been in exhibitions at Carrie Secrist Gallery, The Saw Room, Flatfile Gallery and Gallery A. Inc.

**Tim Stone** was born in Park Ridge in 1973, where he grew up living with his family. Over the years, Stone has created an expansive and cohesive body of work across media, including graphite, watercolor, and acrylic. For the past few years he has focused primarily on grayscale drawings of loose grids in graphite, with titles that hint at personal inspirations. Focused and methodical in his practice, he maintains a diligent studio routine and steadfast artistic vision informed by concepts of abstraction. Stone's process is driven by labor-intensive, repetitive mark-making that burnishes the graphite and slowly wears away the surface of the paper over time. He's

also an active member of the curatorial committee, assisting guest curators with exhibitions at Circle Contemporary featuring studio artists alongside artists from the broader contemporary art community.

"I start drawing squares with a B pencil. Then I keep drawing over them until they become glossy and thick. The B pencil helps the graphite become bolder and shinier, then some of it fades away."

**Oly Trindl** (b.1995) creates paintings full of rich, velvety hues that burst with dynamic movement. Her expressive works deliver drama, contrast, energy and depth.

"Getting better at my technique. I find myself focused very hard working."

Trindl engages in art making with deliberate patience and focus, as her natural charisma flows from her brush to the canvas. Expansive color palettes are carefully preselected for each work and then masterfully applied with individual distinction. Each piece beams with warmth and earnest dedication.

"I'm included in so much art shows this year. My Instagram is blowing up with comments and, like, I never was a part of a community like Arts of Life."

Born in 1970, **Maria Vanik** is a lifelong Chicagoan. While she has an extensive background in experimenting with fiber and sculpture materials, she's currently focused on a prolific studio practice based in drawing. Vanik expands on references ranging from found imagery to pop culture to personal memories through the inclusion of patterns and vibrant colors, paired with a distinct approach to symbolism and mark-making. She has been a member of Arts of Life's Chicago studio since 2017.

"I like to make artwork. The colors are very very bright. I like to use markers to draw raindrops, a rainbow, a tree. Next time I will do it different. I like to start with a white blank background. I like to use bright colors with dark colors. I like to use a lot of them, and mix them together."

**Frank Vega** (b. 1992, Ecuador) is an interdisciplinary artist working across sculpture, painting, sound, and installation. His practice explores the material and symbolic value of everyday objects through Desencanto, a process of deconstruction and reconfiguration that challenges systems of utility and value. By stripping objects of their original function and activating them through sound, movement, and collaboration, Vega opens new possibilities for meaning, sustainability, and co-creation. For Vega, each element is a fragment or Unidad (Unit); when these parts come together, they create a larger whole—a space of belonging.

Rooted in Ecuadorian and South American traditions, Vega's work engages with indigenous local craftsmanship and contemporary craft, exploring how materials

absorb collective memory and cultural identity. His installations function as living ecosystems, where objects shift in meaning through improvisation and sonic activation.

Vega has exhibited at No Lugar (Ecuador), Hyde Park Art Center (Chicago), Devening Projects (Chicago), MDW Fair at Mana Contemporary (Chicago), Koik Contemporary (Mexico City), The Green Gallery (Milwaukee), El Lobi (Puerto Rico), among others. He has been awarded a Teaching Fellowship at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, as well as the Frankenthaler Scholarship, the Florence M. House Scholarship, and the Leroy Neiman Fellowship from Ox-Bow School of Art.

Through a hybrid approach that merges tradition and innovation, Vega redefines how audiences engage with materiality, sound, and collective experience.

**Jean Wilson** was born in Chicago in 1958 and has been a member of the Chicago Studio since 2007. Drawn to beasts both real and fictional - ranging from wolves and wildcats to bats and birds of prey to werewolves and three-headed hellhounds - Wilson is most inspired by the feared and respected nature of these subjects. Immediately visible across her body of work are sharp talons, ragged tufts of fur, glowing eyes, and jagged teeth lining unhinged jaws. While her feral menagerie serves as a collective talisman, it is also directly linked with her creative identity and related aspirational acts in the studio; she'll often watch favorite creature features while wearing elaborate animal masks, fantastical wolf montage T-shirts, or a full body gorilla suit. As an avid consumer of pop culture, her paintings also sometimes depict stereo systems, CD players, headphones, or favorite musicians. For another ongoing series, Wilson has created yellow legal pad drawings over the years, poetic missives listing bits of text transcribed from various source material, including magazines, album covers, and online advertisements.

Wilson's work has previously been featured in *With a Little Help From My Friends* curated by Megan Foy and Julian Van Eer Moere, *Jesse* curated by Peter Anastos, *Opening Night* curated by Liza Eilers, *Face in the Crowd* curated by Noël Morical, *Hand Drawn Circle* at Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art, *Party Animal* at The Franklin, and *In Good Company* at the Chicago Cultural Center, as well as a limited edition print run with Summertime Gallery in Brooklyn. She can also be heard on the Arts of Life Band's 2017 album *Kinda Weirdy*.