

## CONSIDERING MASS AND DENSITY

### Final Exhibition of the Textile Arts Center's 12th Cycle of Artists in Residence

September 13 - 26, 2021

Opening Reception: September 13, 6-8pm

Gallery Hours: Sat-Thursday, 11am-7pm

Textile Arts Center, 505 Carroll Street, Brooklyn NY

August 19, 2021, Brooklyn, New York - The Textile Arts Center (TAC), in partnership with The Vanderbilt Republic (VR), is pleased to present *Considering Mass and Density* on view from 13-26 September 2021 at the Textile Arts Center (505 Carroll Street, Brooklyn, New York 11215). The exhibition features works by the artists who participated in the 12th cycle of the Textile Arts Center's Artist in Residence program: Jessica Elena Aquino, Francisco echo Eraso, Clare Hu, Jeanne F Jalandoni, Ryan Scails, Elaine Shen, Emily Small and Elizabeth Tolson.

For nine months, individually and collectively, the artists scoured the depths of ancestral knowledge to elucidate old technologies, comprehend their worlds, past and present, and develop a new criterion to inhabit their surroundings. They moved through time slowly, each thread building up, connecting, combining, and functioning as one. Throughout this time, making became a form of healing.

In the gallery, a handwoven tarp hanging from the ceiling, shaped and held by harnesses, displays imagery from Hu's life in Georgia, mended with patches and Lee's Surrender overshot weave, used to question monolithic narratives of the U.S "South". Scails' canvas drawings and dressed sculptures examine structure and materiality and their relationship to the body, labor and care. Modulated surfaces on quilted silk and cotton in Tolson's work, invoke the passage of time, the concept of Space and its relationship with body cycles. Aquino's large loom structure woven with wildflowers, cornhusks, and collected objects, offers solace from love and heartbreak and invites guests to share from their own experience. In Shen's work, an installation of sculpted white and blue nets reflects on expressions of familial love and care and the paradox of safety and entrapment. Jalandoni's large scale figures combine oil painting with handmade and found textiles to celebrate and reclaim her Filipino American cultural identity in response to stereotypes created by US Imperialism. echo's black and gold handwoven and felted textiles, reminiscent of popular Colombian garments interrogate the construction of national patrimony and cultural value. Tapestries, sculptures, and signs appear scattered throughout the exhibition signaling a near world end scenario as a means for Small to reflect on social and environmental changes, structures of safety, and grief.

A thread through the works in this exhibition emerges in the synchronized support systems ebbing and flowing through care. Each artist reaches into personal depths, navigating spaces beyond physicality. By manifesting through process, a facsimile of truth emerges - earlier forms peeking through transparent layers, fostering connections and relationships, like a palimpsest used again.

## ABOUT THE TAC AIR CYCLE 12 ARTISTS

[Jessica Elena Aquino](#) is an interdisciplinary fiber artist, educator, and poet from Santa Ana, CA currently based in Brooklyn. Aquino uses improvisational weaving, sculpture, and the use of childhood & cultural objects to navigate her (dis)connection to familismo, home, love, and labor. Aquino intertwines poetry, plant dyeing, and biographical and historical research, to provide a space of healing.

[Francisco \(echo\) Eraso](#) is a disabled, trans, Colombian-American interdisciplinary textile artist, writer and performer. His work makes evident the construction of value through reproductions and allusions to textiles as a form of currency. In his woven textile installations, experimental video work and somatic movement practice he weaves together the interrelated legacies of extractive capitalism, ornamentation, labor, alchemy, healing and repatriation.

[Clare Hu](#) is an artist and weaver currently based in Brooklyn, NY. Haptic skips of woven textiles gone awry, the distortion of image dictated by the hand, and games of hide and seek inform the use of weaving, mended imagery and installation, to examine false histories and notions of the South.

[Jeanne F Jalandoni](#) is an artist working primarily with paint and textile based in Uptown Manhattan. In her practice, Jeanne reflects on Filipino history and her personal experiences as a 2nd generation American to comprehend her own bicultural identity, and challenge Filipino identity. By referencing food, national symbols, historical and ancestral archives, her work invites viewers to question bicultural tangibility.

[Ryan Scails](#) is a multidisciplinary artist based in Brooklyn, NY. His work examines the nuances of materiality within the built world and how intentional shifts in details can give humans context in ways that confront the limits of their bodies.

[Elaine Shen](#) is a textile artist and maker from the San Francisco Bay Area, currently based in Brooklyn, NY. Her work investigates the complex nature of love relationships and expressions of care in the context of the places in which we grew up and the cultures and family dynamics that shape our paradigms. She utilizes grid structures to reflect on order and chaos and the power of opposites and employs a range of textile techniques including machine knitting, crocheting, knotting and netting, stitching, and printing.

[Emily Small](#) is a multidisciplinary artist and curator from Northern California. Her work is concerned with the tensions between universal and local grief. She plays with semiotic theory and 'camp' to form aesthetic themes drawn from a fascination with apocalypse narratives.

[Elizabeth Tolson](#) is an artist and educator who uses the language of textiles to explore the relationships between the moon, the body, and time.

## **ABOUT TEXTILE ARTS CENTER**

[Textile Arts Center](#) (TAC) is a NYC-based resource facility founded in 2009, dedicated to raising awareness and understanding of textiles through creative educational programs for children and adults. At TAC, we aspire to unify the textile community and advocate for the handmade by providing accessible, skills-based classes that reinvigorate engagement with traditional crafts.

## **ABOUT TAC'S ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE**

Textile Arts Center's Artist in Residence (TAC AIR) program equips artists and designers with resources and skills to better develop and articulate their artistic practices. Through TAC AIR, residents are able to advance their work, actively pursue their career ambitions, foster connections within the textile art community and share their knowledge outside of the studio walls.

TAC AIR combines studio access with a rigorous interdisciplinary curriculum, regular critical dialogue and mentorship, providing residents an opportunity to learn and explore the textile medium, and an alternative to traditional higher education programs. The residency culminates in a group exhibition produced and hosted by TAC. Since 2010, TAC AIR has graduated over eighty artists and designers whose work continues to further textile art within the fashion, fine arts, design and art education fields.

## **ABOUT THE VANDERBILT REPUBLIC**

[The Vanderbilt Republic](#) (VR, est. 2008) is a production consultancy formed to advance creativity in all modes. Born in Brooklyn, VR knows archetype expansion & radical humanity to be drivers of market leadership and generative social reform. Through our work with pioneering contemporary artists, institutions, producers and brands, the agency offers bespoke solutions in immersive creative production, design & direction with innovative projection methodologies and best-in-class photo/film production. George Del Barrio is VR's Creative Director × Executive Producer.

## **ACCESS INFORMATION**

The Textile Arts Center (TAC) is located on the first floor of 505 Carroll Street, in Brooklyn. The exhibition is accessible through 4 steps at TAC's main entrance, or through a low incline ramp (not ADA compliant) at street level. Entrance in the studio and the exhibition is free. Chairs with backs are available to guests upon request. There are three non-gender-segregated bathrooms in the studio space: one bathroom is wide and long enough to accommodate a wheelchair; the others are accessible through steps. Neither bathroom has grab bars. TAC is a working studio and not a scent free space. One of the works in the exhibition includes an essential oil diffuser, which will be activated during the opening reception. Use of masks is mandatory at all times inside the TAC gallery and studio. If you have any COVID-19 symptoms, or if you have been exposed to someone diagnosed with Covid-19 recently, we ask you to please stay home.