

PRACTISE

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Dawson + Fleischmann Brewer + Lacher *Bitter Nectar*

Curated by Allison Wade

10/19/19 – 11/24/19

Opening Reception Saturday 10/19/19 2- 5pm



PRACTISE is thrilled to present *Bitter Nectar* an exhibition of new works by St. Louis based artists Sage Dawson, Kristen Fleischmann Brewer and Allison Lacher. *Bitter Nectar* is curated by Chicago artist and educator Allison Wade.

Turning toward an illusive feeling that seems right, Kristin Fleischman Brewer, Sage Dawson, and Allison Lacher create dense, syrup-y objects in *Bitter Nectar*. Vernacular fragments emerge — a rug, carefully sewn and folded fabric, a skeleton key — and signal a rich material and physical space. In spite of the sweet appearance, there's a bitterness that undercuts the work — be it a resounding incompleteness or vagueness through abstraction.

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Sage Dawson is a Saint Louis-based artist, curator, and educator. Her work examines dwelling rights, domestic labor, and the identity of spaces. She teaches at Washington University, is a founding member of Monaco, and directs STNDRD—a gallery project examining the power and potential of flags. Sage completed an MFA + Museum Studies minor at the University of New Mexico, and a BFA at Missouri State University.

Sage has exhibited, lectured, and presented work at various sites including the Center for Contemporary Printmaking Norwalk, Endless Editions EFA Project Space, the Urban Institute for Contemporary Art, The Pulitzer Arts Foundation, the Chicago Artists Coalition, the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, Ortega y Gasset, Tate Exchange, Boston University, the Saint Louis Art Museum, Laumeier Sculpture Park, the Luminary, the City University of New York, the University of Pennsylvania, and the International Print Center New York.

Sage's work has appeared in Art in America, Elephant Magazine, From Here to There published by Princeton Architectural Press, New Art Examiner, Art in Print, Dwell Magazine, and Hyperallergic.

Kristin Fleischmann Brewer Born in St. Louis, Fleischmann Brewer, has been awarded international artist residencies and fellowships including Leadership St. Louis (2018), The Cite Internationale des Arts in Paris (2017), the Creative Community Fellowship with National Art Strategies (2016), and The Luminary (2012/ 2014).

Brewer is the Director of Public Programs and Engagement at the Pulitzer Arts Foundation, where she has worked since 2011, Brewer has mounted ambitious programming and commissions with local and international artists. In addition, Brewer co-founded Citizen Artist St. Louis (2016), a non-partisan initiative working to ensure that arts and culture are considered in policy-making, and directed Enamel Art Space (2012-14). Fleischmann received her Master of Fine Arts from Washington University in St. Louis in May 2011 where she was the recipient of the Mr. and Mrs. Spencer T. Olin Fellowship for Women, and received a Bachelor's of Fine Arts in painting from the University of Denver in 2007.

Allison Lacher is an artist and curator based in Springfield, Illinois. She received an MFA from the Eskenazi School of Art, Architecture + Design at Indiana University and holds a BFA in Sculpture from Edinboro University.

Lacher has exhibited at venues that include Ortega y Gasset Projects (Brooklyn), the Hyde Park Art Center (Chicago), PDX Contemporary (Portland), the Utah Museum of Contemporary Art (Salt Lake City), The Luminary (St. Louis), and E.TAY Gallery (New York). She has been awarded artist residencies with Ox-Bow, ACRE, Spiro Arts, Prairie Center of the Arts, Vermont Studio Center, The Luminary, and with Signal Fire on US/Mexico borderlands. She was a HATCH Projects curatorial resident with the Chicago Artists Coalition and is a previous recipient of the Illinois Arts Council Fellowship Award.

She is the Exhibitions Manager at the University of Illinois Visual Arts Gallery and she is a founding member of the artist-owned gallery Monaco in St. Louis, MO. In 2013 she Co-founded DEMO Project, a space for contemporary art in Springfield, IL, and served as Co-director of the space until its demolition in 2018.

Allison Wade is a visual artist working across sculpture and drawing. She received an MFA from the Fiber and Material Studies Department at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, completed a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate at the Maryland Institute College of Art, and holds a BA in English literature from Stanford University. Her work has been exhibited at Hagiwara Projects, Tokyo; Peana Projects, Monterrey, MX; Scotty Enterprises, Berlin; Ditch Projects, Eugene, OR; Rhodes College, Memphis; and Chicago venues including Devening Projects, LVL3, Adds Donna, and Slow. Wade has been awarded residencies at Ox-Bow, ACRE, Mustarinda (Finland), and the Vermont Studio Center and has been a visiting artist at the Kansas City Art Institute, Miami University, Rhodes College, the Cranbrook Academy of Art's Ceramics Department, and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago's Interlink program. Born and raised in Texas, she lives and works in Chicago, where she is a Lecturer in the Department of Art Theory & Practice at Northwestern University. Wade is represented by Devening Projects.

PRACTISE is an independently run artist-centered exhibition space located in Oak Park, IL directed by artist and educator Zachary Buchner. Acknowledging a long tradition of alternative spaces in Oak Park and Chicago, our goal is to continue this lineage of community and discourse.

Hours: Sundays 1–4PM or by appointment

Contact: info@practise.info for all inquiries

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