

American Institute of Thoughts and Feelings presents

The Hole in the Fence

Gwen Hollingsworth, Drew Miller,
Novi Penney, zenas proa, Kid Violet

"A miniature metal carousel horse is mounted on a small wooden box. After releasing a couple of windups to the gearbox below, the horse starts to turn slowly to the thin metal tune of "The Impossible Dream (The Quest)". The horse is bound by not just the box but its carousel pole. The thin tune, still playing, holds the clicking rhythm of the horses turn, the horse in effect unable to trot, to graze, to stampede.

A chain-link fence on the edge of town partitions residents from personnel. Bolt cutters create the portal from one side to the other. For every outpouring an implied potential of containment, for every boundary an implied potential of boundlessness.

The works on display in *The Hole in the Fence* span across media: drawings, paintings, assemblage, ceramics, text, found object. Scrawled on the wall in their handwriting, the lyrics to Kid Violet's *DEATHWIFE* set the tone for the exhibition: i am ridden with her ivy / she makes rubble of me / she says / get to know thyself / by wishing. In Gwen Hollingsworth's intimate paintings, the metaphysical and omen-like images emerge out of the shadow void. Similarly mystical but visually teetering between light and darkness, Novi Penney's colorful varied forms point to remnants of gestures from which the internal flows. Meanwhile, Drew Miller's strategic renderings provide a paper trail for his visual research of experience and memory, a simultaneous preoccupation with form and estrangement from form's origins. zenas proa's glazed stoneware works ground the space into the three-dimensional realm and hold this weight accordingly. The visual motifs of proa's works exist in direct reference to the Arbol de Vida and Circle of Friends, traditional Mexican candelabra silhouettes, along with abstract images translated from waking dreams, slumber, and early visions. Distinct yet overlapping strategies from these five artists yield both an expansion from and a tethering to the deeply personal. Intuition and fixation give way to an unearthing - both matter of life and matter of death."

-rs, American Institute of Thoughts and Feelings

Gwen Hollingsworth (b. 1998 Los Angeles, CA; based in Los Angeles, CA) uses drawing and painting to highlight the psychology of space and its impact on our realities in an effort to create new visual and spiritual paradigms. Her practice explores phenomena in the natural world as a way of seeking sanctuary and self knowing. She received her BA from University of California, Los Angeles in 2020.

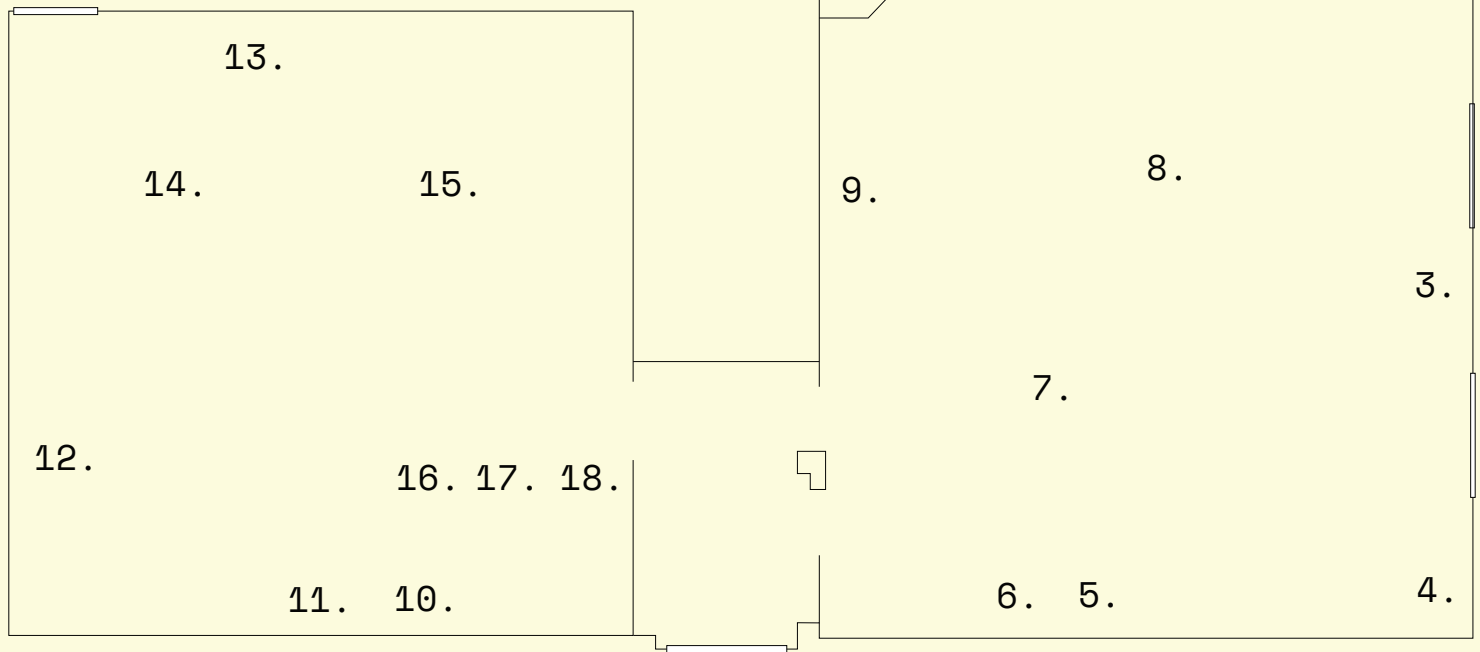
Drew Miller (b. 1989, Pacific Northwest) lives in New Mexico where he finds creative motivation for drawings from local adobe architecture, instances where historical and contemporary construction technologies meet and how people live in and around those buildings. He has participated in exhibitions at Harpy Gallery, Over Under Room, Good Naked Gallery, SOIL gallery, and Spring Break Art Fair. Recently, he was invited to participate in "Viewing Room", a studio visit-based project hosted by the Drawing Center, NY.

Novi Penney (b. 1997 Indianapolis, IN) is a self-taught artist based in Tucson, AZ who imagines self-expression as a virtue. His perspective is that of a queer and trans shapeshifter unraveling guilt and shame through his creative process. Predominantly working with oil pastel along with other media, Novi is inspired by color and childlike wonder. Trauma informed and magical, his work explores the honesty of uninhibited creation.

zenas proa (b. 1992, Dallas, TX, they/them) is a queer, mexican-american interdisciplinary artist seeking to bring subtle and numinous visions across the stream of dreams into a tangible earthly reality grounded by clay. they currently live and work in Tucson, AZ.

Kid Violet is an ex-poet based in Tucson, Arizona.

1. Gwen Hollingsworth, *And Then the Sky Turned Red*, 2022, Oil on canvas, 9x12 in
2. Gwen Hollingsworth, *Falling Stars*, 2022, Oil on canvas, 9x12 in
3. Drew Miller, *Frontage*, 2022, Colored pencil on paper, 19x22 in
4. Novi Penney, *His Grand Interlude*, 2022, Acrylic paint on mirror with mixed media adornments, 60x16 in
5. Drew Miller, *Dirty Star*, 2022, Colored pencil on paper, 22x30 in
6. Drew Miller, *Star over 2nd*, 2022, Colored pencil on paper, 16x22 in
7. zenas proa, *chrome flower*, 2022, Stoneware, 14x9x11 in
8. zenas proa, *kikilala circle of friends*, Stoneware and beeswax candle, 2022, 22x22x10 in
9. Kid Violet, *DEATHWIFE* (forthcoming EP), lyrics written in graphite, 2022
10. Novi Penney, *Wake up my Heart*, 2022, Oil pastel on paper, 11x9 in
11. Novi Penney, *A Serpent Introduction*, 2022, Oil pastel on paper, 11x9 in
12. Novi Penney, *Mother Wound Demon*, 2022, Acrylic paint, oil pastel, and chalk on glass, 27x33 in
13. Novi Penney, *Romance my Garden*, 2022, Oil pastel on canvas pad, 12x16 in
14. zenas proa, *arbol de rosa*, 2022, Stoneware, sterling silver, freshwater pearl, and beeswax candles, 10x11x4 in
15. zenas proa, *egg holder*, 2022, Stoneware, abalone, and ostrich egg, 8x8x14 in
16. zenas proa, *angel holder*, 2022, Stoneware and beeswax candle, 4x4 in
17. zenas proa, *flor de los deseos*, 2022, Stoneware, wire, and beeswax candles, 7x6x5 in
18. zenas proa, *butterfly candelabra*, 2022, Stoneware, wire, and beeswax candle, 7x3x5.5 in



West Gallery

East Gallery

American Institute of Thoughts and Feelings (AITF) is an exhibition and arts organizing project based in the Sonoran Desert. AITF was started in 2018 and has been featured in Hyperallergic, AQNB, and Tzvetnik.

Everybody is a gallery in Tucson, AZ that primarily works with emerging and perpetually-emerging artists. Its beginnings in Tucson started as a warehouse project space from 2016-2018, followed by an iteration in Chicago, IL from 2019-2020. Its activity has been featured by Newcity Art, Vulture, Contemporary Art Daily, ART news, Art Viewer, Autre Magazine, Tzvetnik, Arizona Public Media, SFAQ, among others. Everybody is a member of the New Art Dealers Alliance.

