

Project: ARTspace

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Artists Leslie Kerby and Michelle Weinberg bring their works to Project: ARTspace with the exhibition *Shuffling Liminal Episodes*.

Like a stack of snapshots, their works on paper and vellum individually alight on various settings, some specific, some imagined. Their gaze occupies the spot for a moment, arrested, then it re-configures the furniture, scales the picture up or down, and crosses a threshold to the next place. Subjects are inside and outside simultaneously. A whiff of humor lingers.

Narrative is at the core of both their artistic processes. Inanimate objects are protagonists, imbued with character, projecting an inner life. Random accumulations of belongings, furnishings, activities and accoutrements of daily life are freeze-framed for consideration. A collage aesthetic pervades the works of Kerby and Weinberg, uniting unexpected elements. Their exchange of ideas and the discovery of commonalities has charged their practices, and led to this exhibition.

For *Shuffling Liminal Episodes*, they have collaborated on an installation in which smaller framed works are mounted within larger backdrop drawings that de-construct aspects of their works. Loosely drawn pattern, geometric elements, fragments of plant life and texts form the backdrop for their individual works.

Is an image a centerpiece, a fixed icon? Or is it a rest stop on the way to the next place, beyond the border of the frame? They clearly enjoy the fluidity, swapping figure and ground, shuffling images like cards in a deck, like tunes in a playlist.

Kerby who normally examines larger social networks and systems in her work, turns inward, as many of us have done lately to map the interior spaces of her community. The paintings are a walkabout, an outreach, that she conducted during lockdown contacting friends all over the world asking them to contribute by sending photographs of relaxing places in their homes from which she painted detailed, personal observations of their surroundings. The square formats reference forced views via Zoom or Instagram. Once outside, Kerby observed traces of community re-arranged and interrupted by social distancing, finding random seating in many different locations and taking the time to fix the moment, aware that this too is transient and will slip away. Similarly the shift in scale with large format drawings allowed her to expand and play

with situating fixed environments in expanded open spaces colliding and playing with Weinberg's drawings and animated re-arrangements of space.

Weinberg relates that her experience drawing is like flypaper, a sticky surface, catching all manner of schemes, objects, the world on her table. For her, drawing engages a literary feel, discursive, digressive, not reductive. Notes (comments?), flitting thoughts, titles are scribbled in the marginalia that all cohere on the physical surface of the paper. Most often there is an architectural scheme for the viewer to situate herself in, project herself into - try on a new scale relationship, pick up a box, re-arrange the things on a table, open a door in the elevation. The graphite smudges on the white of the paper simulate the "touch" or the "hand" of the artist. This picture is realized on a paper that's acted upon, animated, scarred, that has absorbed thumbprints and other dust, residue. In this way, the hard geometry is tempered or softened. She tosses up the banal, the decorative. Wayward playthings obey a useless formalism. Un-serious volumes are equally trash or treasure. In these conditions, she finds freedom.

Michelle Weinberg is a painter who works in varied mediums in her studio and in the creation of art for interiors, architecture and public spaces. She received a BFA from School of Visual Arts and an MFA from Tyler School of Art. She is the recipient of awards, fellowships and residencies from Pollock-Krasner Foundation, SouthArts, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, NYFA Artist Relief, Joseph Robert Foundation, South Florida Cultural Consortium Fellowship, National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts, MacDowell Colony, Millay Colony, Studios at MASS MoCA, 100West Corsicana in TX, Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, homesession and Fundacion Valparaiso in Spain and Altos de Chavon in Dominican Republic. Recent exhibitions include Delaware Valley Arts Alliance, Artport Kingston, Hewitt Gallery at Marymount Manhattan, Charles Moffett Gallery, ARENA, New York Public Library in NYC, Frost Art Museum, Schmidt Center Gallery/Florida Atlantic University, Dot FiftyOne Gallery and Emerson Dorsch Gallery in Miami. She has created commissioned works for ArtBridge in NYC, Miami International Airport, The Wolfsonian Museum-FIU, Facebook offices, Miami-Dade County Art in Public Places, City of Tampa, Cultural Council of Jacksonville, FL, and more. Weinberg is Creative Director of Girls' Club in Fort Lauderdale and a consultant to museums and non-profits, developing exhibitions, publications, education programming and more. Available Space is her platform for independent curatorial projects, presenting and facilitating artist initiatives, such as her ongoing invitational project Artists Draw Their Studios. Weinberg is adjunct faculty at Marymount Manhattan College and a Mentor at the Ratcliffe Incubator for Art & Design Entrepreneurship at Florida International University.

Leslie Kerby is an interdisciplinary artist working with painting, drawing, sculpture and video to create thematically interlinked bodies of work focusing on issues related to how we lead our lives personally, as individuals. And, to how our personal lives are variably connected to, and changed by, the broader networks and communities within which we live and interact. Kerby has been awarded fellowships and residencies at the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, American Academy in Rome, Virginia Center for Creative Arts (Virginia and France) and School of Visual Arts. Her work is held in permanent collections at Columbia University, New York; Arkansas State University, Arkansas; Copelouzos Art Museum, Athens Greece. Kerby has received commissions from Norte Maar for Collaborative Projects in the Arts, BRIC Arts | Media and Visual Arts Center of New Jersey. Recent exhibitions have been presented at Jason McCoy Gallery, Community Folk Art Center Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY; Visual Arts Center of New Jersey, Garvey | Simon, Pierogi Gallery, Frosch and Co. Gallery, Kleinert James Art Center, Woodstock, NY; Norte Maar Collaborative Projects for the Arts, Museum Blue, St. Louis, MO; Zurcher Gallery, Van Der Plas Gallery, The Painting Center. Kerby's work has appeared at art fairs, Verge, Spring Break and AQUA Miami. She has been reviewed in hyperallergic.com and Two Coats of Paint and interviewed for BRIC Radio, BRIC TV and blogs Artist Planet, Art Spiel and Vasari 21. She is a member of the Creative Council at BRIC Arts | Media, and a member of the Executive Board at Norte Maar for Collaborative Projects in the Arts.

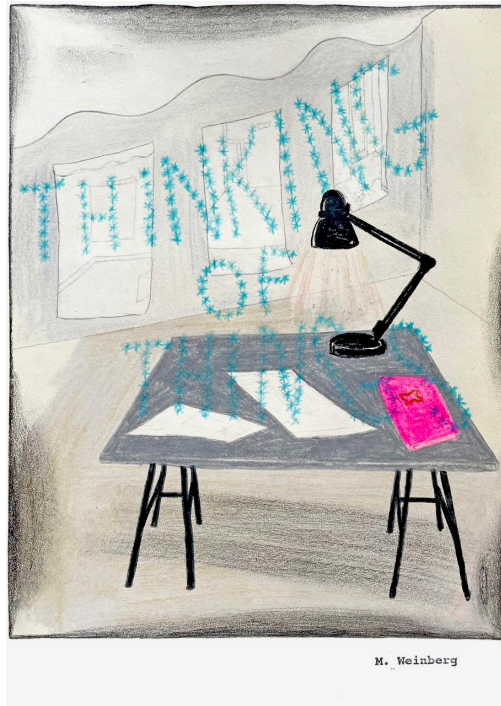
A catalog will be available with exhibition checklist and excerpts from a novel in progress by writer Denise Delgado.
For further information, contact info@projectartspace.com Leslie Kerby or Michelle Weinberg



Michelle Weinberg, *Serial Singularity*, graphite and colored pencil on paper, 12 x 9 in.



Leslie Kerby, *Center City*, watercolor, acrylic and graphite on vellum, 10 x 10 in. Michelle Weinberg, *Th*



Michelle Weinberg, *Thinker*, graphite and colored pencil on paper, 12 x 9 in.



Leslie Kerby, *Out East*, watercolor, acrylic, graphite on vellum, 10 x 10 in.

