



Reclamation

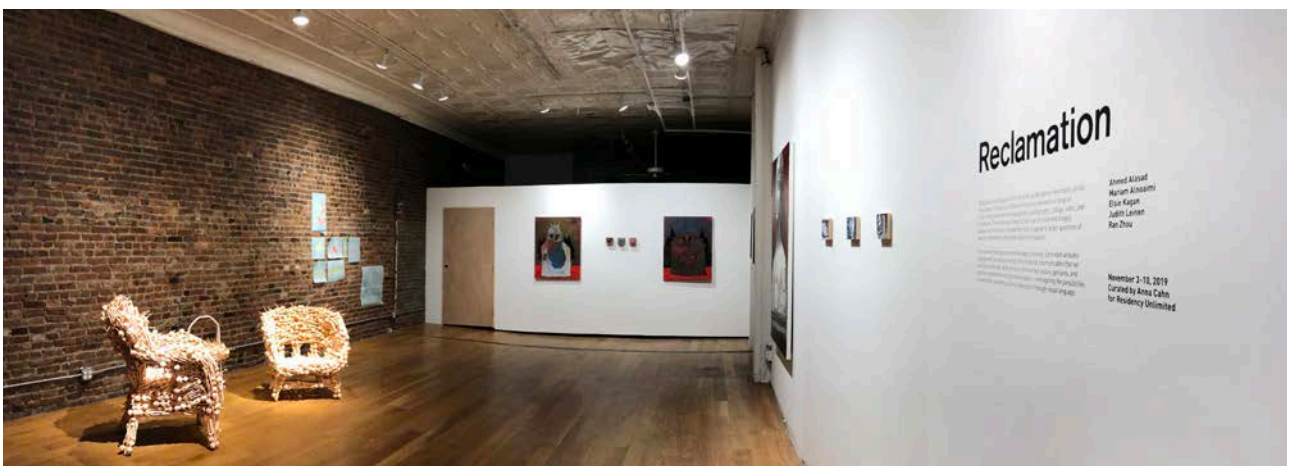
Organized by Residency Unlimited
Curated by Anna Cahn

November 3-10, 2019
Compère Collective

351 Van Brunt Street, 11231 Brooklyn Realty Collective

Reclamation is a group exhibition of works by Residency Unlimited's artists in residence. This group of international artists presents a range of multi-media practices including painting, photography, collage, video, and installation. The artists are united by their use of reclaimed images, spaces, and materials, empowering them to speak to larger questions of identity, urbanization, and public and private spaces.

Their works challenge conventional ways of seeing. Each work uniquely engages with, as well as disrupts, the modes of communication that we encounter every day. A reclamation of materials, places, gestures, and histories reverberates through these objects – reimagining the possibilities of ownership, autonomy, and self-expression through visual language.



Reclamation by Residency Unlimited

AHMED ALASAD

b.1995 Manama, Bahrain; lives & works Bahrain

Alasad's new series of paintings continues his style of dark and deeply saturated portraits of archetypal figures of war and corruption. Horror, satire, and humor spill out of his canvases, reminiscent of both the post-war figurative movement of artists such as Francis Bacon to the neo-expressive style of Jean-Michel Basquiat.

The portraits of political, saintly, and pop-culture figures painted on McDonalds disposable containers echo the traditional style of miniature painting, spanning both Christian and Islamic cultures in pre-modern art history. Alasad reclaims these canonical artistic traditions by inserting alternative contemporary figures and using found materials.



A wild meal, 2019
mixed media on
cardboard, image
courtesy of the
artist



Left: *Artificial senses*,
2019 mixed media on
canvas, image courtesy
of the artist



Right: *A man with
a cigar*, 2019 mixed
media on canvas, image
courtesy of the artist



MARIAM ALNOAMIMI

b.1990 Bahrain; lives & works Bahrain

The title of Alnoaimi's video, *Syncopation* (A modified version), takes inspiration from the musical term. Syncopation is the temporary displacement of the regular metrical accent caused by stressing the weak beat. The film edits, remaps, and reorients various geographies - touching upon land development and urban planning patterns. Maps are digitally re-composed and accompanied by a syncopated score. The video opens with the world map and moves to the artist's home country of Bahrain, as well as several other cities across the world.

Syncopation (A modified version) illuminates the ephemeral, political, and conceptual nature of maps -with their displacing, demarcating, and fluctuating borders. It also reveals the power dynamics looming behind mapmaking, in which different stories get told depending on the viewpoint of the author. Alnoaimi's cropping, cutting, and editing process facilitates a reexamination of questions of mapmaking, development patterns, and authority.



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Syncopation (A modified version), 2018 video 3:10, image courtesy of the artist, music by Mohammed Haddad

ELSIE KAGAN

b. 1977 San Francisco, CA lives & works Brooklyn, NY

Kagan's practice is deeply rooted in painting and is inspired by the religious imagery of the Renaissance and Baroque periods. Her monumental, yet intimate, works [such as her mother and child figures], abstract and extend the interpretation of contemporary motherhood. Her new paintings decreation,

The archetype of the mother appears in this series -showing images of women in moments of intense contemplation. The figures are depicted with great subjectivity, in an almost meditative state, with their gazes downturned and looking away from the viewer.

As Kagan reclaims the image of the mother from art, she further breaks down the binaries of contemporary motherhood, drawing parallels between the roles of artists and mothers with creators and makers.



Decreation, 2019 watercolor and oil on canvas, image courtesy of the artist



Left above: *is-being*, 2019 flashe on panel, image courtesy of the artist

Left down: *has-been*, 2019 flashe on panel, image courtesy of the artist

Right down: *will-be*, 2019 flashe on panel, image courtesy of the artist

JUDITH LEINEN

b. 1985 Prum, Germany; lives & works Boulder, CO

Leinen's new body of work *Watch the Gap* reclaims the systems of communication that one encounters every day. Its focus on materiality, irregularity, and failure, constructs a critical dialogue -questioning the ways in which humans interact with signs, symbols, and systems of civil order.

The dynamic installation consists of photo prints, foam inlays, and sculpture . It advances a conversation about the semiotics of order, working with difficult and resistant materials while capturing moments of graphic and physical tension.

The sculpture in the installation, *swipe again*, takes inspiration from New York City's public transportation system - specifically a turnstile. Leinen is interested in theoretical designs dependent on human interaction. The sculpture uses industrial and malleable materials Leinen's work will be featured in an upcoming group exhibition in Luxembourg City [as a nominee of the 2019 Robert Schuman Art Prize] at Villa Vauban - Musee d'Art de la Ville, and Cercle Cite, opening on November 21st, 2019. such as mesh-reinforced PVC, foam, and carbon paper. The work confronts a pragmatic and simplistic design with the irregular and unpredictable forces of a busy urban space-exposing the system's vulnerability to failure and an object on the brink of collapse.



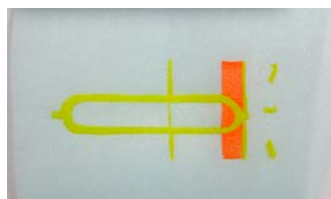
Watch the Gap, 2019 ongoing photographic print, image courtesy of Judith Leinen and VG Bildkunst



Swipe again, 2019 ongoing sculpture, mesh-reinforced PVC, polyester foam, PU-foam, prayer paper, carbonpaper, PVC manual strap

Watch the Gap, 2019 ongoing foam inlays, perforated packing foam, image courtesy of Judith Leinen and VG Bildkunst

Lower Right: general view of *Watch the Gap*



RAN ZHOU

b. 1996 China; lives & works Vancouver, Canada

Zhou presents a new series of work entitled, *Ant-bed*, which explores ideas of homogeneity and consumerism in educational systems. Using reclaimed factory-made dolls and furniture, her installation continues her practice of reevaluating institutions and cognitive spaces such as factories, classrooms, maps, and the internet.

In *Ant-bed*, the dolls amass whole pieces of furniture and are uniform in shape, size, and color. However, various limbs break out from the group with outstretched arms and legs, and break the symmetrical pattern. The work questions the standards of educational systems across the world, which value data, statistics, and economic growth, over individualism, intellectualism, and ethics.

The reclaimed factory-made dolls echo the image of an assembly line, equating academic institutions to factories. The furniture installation welcomes visitors to contemplate these issues in an informal and intimate setting.



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Ant-bed, 2019 mixed media installation, image courtesy of the artist



Residency Unlimited (RU) is a non-profit art organization that supports the creation, presentation and dissemination of contemporary art through its unique residency program and year-round public programs. Residency Unlimited provides customized residencies for international and local artists and curators in New York City focused on network support, project/production assistance, and public exposure. This includes weekly meetings with art professionals aligning artistic and curatorial interests, regular project support with RU staff, and a public program opportunity at our Brooklyn location or partnering venues throughout New York.

Artists Alliance Inc. is 501c3 not for profit organization located on the Lower East Side of New York City within the Clemente Soto Vélaz Cultural and Educational Center. Cuchifritos Gallery is supported in part by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council. Exhibition programming is made possible by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts. We thank the New York City Economic Development Corporation and individual supporters of Artists Alliance Inc for their continued support. Special thanks go to our team of dedicated volunteers and interns, without whom this program would not be possible.

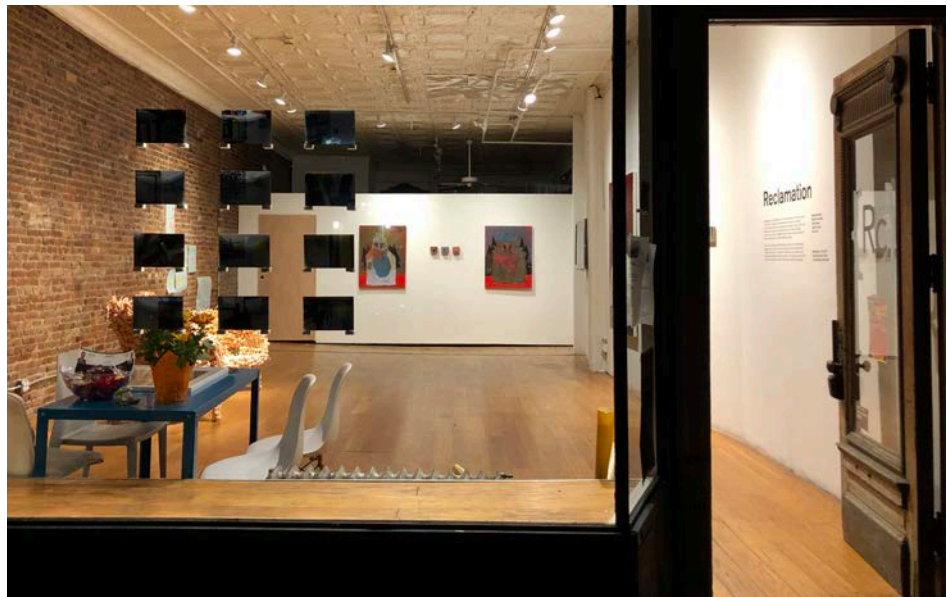
This exhibition is made possible with support from Stiftung Rheinland-Pfalz für Kultur, Künstlerhaus Schloss Balmoral and Art Select, a Bahrain based art advisory dealing in consulting and creating artist platforms, art events, and investor art portfolios.



Stiftung
Rheinland-Pfalz
für Kultur



Realty Collective



Compère Collective's mission is to nurture and host diverse artistic practice and thoughtful dialogue; understanding that art should be used as a catalyst for critical thinking. We place great significance on the human interaction and connection that art makes possible, and see our role not just as host but also as active connector. Similarly, we value the integrity of the artistic process and the link that personal expression has to a broader understanding and respect of social contexts. The exhibition space is intimate and capable of showcasing a rich variety of media, which have included all the traditional formats, from painting and performance to facilitated discussion and dance. We relish the freedom this space provides for artists, collaborators, and curators— to reinvent what “gallery” can mean, artistically, conceptually and as a force within the community.

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Compère Collective was founded by Victoria Alexander, owner of Redhook's Realty Collective. Victoria's boutique real estate firm in Brooklyn celebrates the borough's rich history, architecture, culture and people. You will often see the word “passionate” when describing the way her collective of real estate agents feels towards the place they live and work. Located in the culturally and artistically rich neighborhood of Red Hook Brooklyn, Compère Collective strives to do the same, and has hosted a diverse set of exhibitions, events, and artists since opening its doors in 2012.

Realty Collective is a local woman-owned company that works to transform people's experience of what is possible in Brooklyn real estate. They believe every rental or sales transaction should bring connection, confidence, and prosperity to individuals that live, work, and create in the diverse communities of Brooklyn facing the future together. Realty Collective agents are not only professional neighborhood experts but also designers, artists, dancers, producers, photographers, musicians, filmmakers, and writers. They understand a home is more than just square footage but a place to create, reflect and support who we are. Their team of talented women and men are proud to work for a company that is passionate about Brooklyn and actively engages within their neighborhoods.