

STRATHMORE

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Strathmore Presents
PAPER WORKS: THE ART OF PAPER
WOOLGATHERING: SHANA KOHNSTAMM
MODULATION & HARMONY: EMON SURAKITKOSON

3 exhibitions, 9 signature galleries, and 13 artists create stunning works and a dramatic experience as Strathmore reopens its Mansion gallery spaces

NORTH BETHESDA, MD – Three exhibitions are on view in the Mansion at Strathmore from **Tuesday, September 8 through Saturday, October 31, 2020.**

Paper has been the surface for images and language used to record and share information for centuries and has shaped the human landscape of history, commerce, and culture. Eventually, hobbyists and artists would animate paper through origami, silhouette, and shadow puppets. In *Paper Works: The Art of Paper*, artists develop playful and poignant art, expanding the traditional forms in modern directions. From large-scale installations to precise and tiny cuts, Strathmore presents an array of extraordinary pieces to delight and invite contemplation. The work of artists from the Washington, DC and Baltimore areas are joined by masters from New York, Virginia, and Florida. The assortment of artists provides a wide range of styles and approaches: paper sculpting, **Melinda Fabian** and **Gina Gwen Palacios**; paper folding and quilling, **Marylouise Roach** and **Ashley Chiang**; paper cutting, **Rosa Leff**, **Lucrezia Beerli-Bieler**, and **Leigh Suggs**; paper collage, **Kate Norris** and **Jennifer Deppe Parker**; painted paper layering, **Ronni Jolles**; altered books, **Daniel Lai**.

The title of **Shana Kohnstamm**'s solo exhibition, *Woolgathering*, may at first suggest her medium, sheep's wool, but its definition speaks more to her process. Woolgathering, the indulgence of daydreaming, is how Kohnstamm's soft sculptures come to be. The artist forms colorfully dyed wool into soft sculptures that look utterly touchable. The fibers lock together through a process called needle felting to create dense shapes that Kohnstamm manipulates into plant structures seemingly alien, vivid humanoid busts, and undulating flowers. This environmentally sustainable medium offers the artist the chance to daydream during the repetitive motions of poking varying needles into knots of wool, merging imagination with process.

In the Invitational Gallery, *Modulation and Harmony* features the mixed media paintings of **Emon Surakitkason**, created from acrylic and pen. The Washington, DC artist with Thai roots examines how the disorienting experience of leaving one culture for another can create a sense of chaos. In her black,

white, and greyscale works she seeks to bring harmonization to disorder. With large sweeping brush strokes, Surakitkoston organizes seemingly randomized swirling forms into pleasing compositions that encourage the viewer's eye to move around the canvas with a fluid motion. Her bold use of contrast merges with a harmonic depiction of movement in these abstractions.

Virtual Opening Reception & Education Content

A virtual **Opening Reception** will be held on Strathmore's Facebook page on **Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 7pm**. The event is free, but guests are encouraged to RSVP on Strathmore's website for a reminder email.

Strathmore will also enhance the visitor experience of its new exhibitions with free, enriching online educational content. Recordings of art talks with Melinda Fabian, Shana Kohnstamm, and Emon Surakitkoston are posted online. Geared to both kids and adults, these talks give arts lovers a chance to learn about the artists' processes, see their studios, and hear them speak about their work. Strathmore will also post a recorded exhibition tour online at a later date.

For more information, visit www.strathmore.org.

The Mansion at Strathmore is also open for socially distanced Afternoon Tea this fall, as well as shopping in the Shop at Strathmore. Masks are required to visit the Mansion, and Strathmore has undertaken many new procedures for the comfort of guests, including special hours for high-risk visitors and private appointments. Read more about these precautions and protocols at www.strathmore.org/mansion.

NEW Gallery and Shop hours beginning September 8

Tuesday: 10am–2pm (High risk visitors only)

Wednesday: 12–4pm

Thursday: Private appointment only. Book online.

Friday: 12–4pm

Saturday: 12–4pm

Sunday & Monday: Closed

About Strathmore

Strathmore presents and produces exemplary visual and performing arts programs for diverse audiences; creates dynamic arts education experiences; and nurtures creative ideas and conversations that advance the future of the arts. The Mansion at Strathmore is located at 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda, MD, one half-mile north of the Capital Beltway and immediately adjacent to the Grosvenor-Strathmore station on Metro's Red Line. For further information or tickets, call (301) 581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

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Strathmore is supported by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive. An agency of the Department of Business & Economic Development, MSAC provides financial support and technical assistance to non-profit organizations, units of government, colleges and universities for arts activities. Strathmore is also supported in part by the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County.

Strathmore Presents
Exhibitions Tuesday, September 8–Saturday, October 31, 2020

Paper Works: The Art of Paper
Curated by Lesley Lundgren, Director of Exhibitions

Artists

Melinda Fabian
Kate Norris
Ashely Chiang
Gina Gwen Palacios
Daniel Lai
Marylouise Roach
Rosa Leff
Leigh Suggs
Lucrezia Beerli-Bieler
Jennifer Deppe Parker
Ronni Jolles

Generous support for this exhibition is provided by Karen Lefkowitz and Al Neyman

Woolgathering: Shana Kohnstamm

Modulation & Harmony: Emon Surakitkoson

Free Virtual Opening Reception

Thursday, September 24, 2020
7pm
on Strathmore's Facebook page

Mansion at Strathmore
10701 Rockville Pike
North Bethesda, MD 20852

For additional information visit www.strathmore.org or call (301) 581-5100.