

In Between Time and Transition

Schneider Hall Galleries
University of Louisville, Belknap Campus

May 11th-August 4th, 2017
Opening Reception May 11th, 5-7pm

The Hite Art Institute is pleased to present “In Between: Time and Transition,” an exhibition curated from the Hite Art Institute’s print collection by students in the Critical and Curatorial Studies graduate seminar.

“In Between” is equal parts historical survey and thematic group show. The exhibition is organized around the concept of “liminality,” a term used to describe moments of ritual, social, or personal transition or transformation—spaces out of time and out of place—that allow for personal, social, or cultural reflection. Throughout the long history of modernism, art has often served in this reflective role, particularly during moments of acute transition, like the peacetime between World Wars and the beginnings and ends of centuries. The ideological divisions revealed in this recent presidential election have convinced many of us that we are currently occupying such a liminal moment. “In Between” thus attempts to pinpoint the psychic, temporal, and physical boundaries across which change occurs and the strategies through which artists enact and reenact such transition in their own practice.

Kara Walker’s *L’il Patch of Woods* (1997) depicts both a temporal and spatial moment out of time, suspended somewhere between the Civil War and Civil Rights, and between contemporary racial inequity and collective traumatic memory. Janet Ballweg’s *Boiling Point* (2002) depicts a small kettle on a stove captured at the “critical point” in which water transforms into gas. This physical liminal moment is conflated with a psychological liminal moment: the “boiling point” at which the pressures of daily domestic life can no longer be tolerated. Not all of the work on display is contemporary, however. Rather, “In Between” draws on the diverse Hite Art collection in order to map the strategies art and artists have used to navigate—and leverage—their liminality.

“In Between: Time and Transition” is co-curated by Whitney Cox, Joel Darland, Stephanie Gerding, Liz Jordan, Hannah Melvin, Scott Rollins, Hillary Roser, and Paige Schat.