

### *New Recruits*

Cressman Center for Visual Arts, 100 E Main Street Louisville, KY 40202

February 25-April 8, 2022

Opening Reception: Friday February 25, 5-8 pm

For Immediate Release: February 14, 2022

The Hite Institute of Art and Design is excited to announce *New Recruits*, an exhibition highlighting the art and research of our newest faculty members: Kat Cox (Fibers & Ceramics), Samuel Swope (New Media & Installation) and Dr. Jennifer Sichel (Contemporary Art & Theory).

The material that composes this exhibition is as varied and provocative as the artists and thinkers who produced it. As a whole, however, the show investigates our increasingly hybrid lives, prodding and manipulating the various in-between spaces that make up modern life, spaces between self and other, human and non-human, art and archive, work and critique.

Kat Cox's sculptures combine elements of comfort and curiosity in their mixture of ceramic and textile materials to create small intimate objects ripe with textures and odd forms. As Cox explains, the pieces "engage with the discomfort of the unknown" to explore "multiplicities inherent within individuals."

The work of Samuel Swope centers on the research and development of aerial art and is informed by "concepts at the intersection of art, science, technology, and life" to engage with issues of "hybridity, atmosphere, autonomy, and the non-human." For *New Recruits*, Swope will be showing work from his *Threatening Birds & Beasts* series, which explores "the tension between drones and humanity, AI, and our own behavioral tendencies."

On display from Dr. Jennifer Sichel is a selection of archival newspapers and ephemera collected during her research for her book-in-progress, *Criticism without Authority: Gene Swenson and Jill Johnston's Queer Practices*. For the exhibition, Dr. Sichel presents her own archive of queer research, which includes underground newspapers and ephemera, photographs from her research in Venice, and material from the University of Louisville's library. Here she "embraces the queer labor of listening to 'gossip' (or non-sanctioned speech), augmenting silences, collaborating with friends, and piecing together fragments to write a new queer history of art and criticism in New York City in the 1960s."

*New Recruits* is an opportunity to introduce our newest faculty to the Louisville community, an introduction very much in line with the mission of the Cressman Center to educate, engage, and excite the community through the visual arts. *New Recruits* will be on view at the Cressman Center for Visual Arts from February 25-April 8, 2022. An opening reception will be held on Friday February 25 from 5-8 PM. This event is free and open to the public!

