

Traces: Women Artists in the Collection
Schneider Hall Galleries
University of Louisville
Louisville, KY 40208

On view July 16-September 3, 2021
Reception August 27 | 5-7 pm

The Hite Art Institute is excited to announce *Traces: Women Artists in the Collection*. Exploring concepts of memory and nostalgia, *Traces* examines our desire to reflect on the past as well as our longing for unrealized futures. At times moody and haunting and in others optimistic and charming, the work on view all relates to ways we recall our histories—both personal and collective, the ways we reinterpret our own memories and how this can create a mourning for what could have been.

The themes of this exhibition are accomplished diversely by the artists presented some by invoking surreal, eerie atmospheres such as in the prints of Janet Ballweg. Ballweg's interiors, void of human life, feel momentarily paused in time. Familiar and unfamiliar, her deeply saturated prints ask the audience to question the finical nature of memory. Regina Powell's Untitled portrait of a small family solicits a similar eeriness, as we are left to wonder what unseen event is the cause of the family's wide-eyed expressions.

Other artists use landscape to capture the emotive senses of the audience. Works like Carolyn Brooks Curd *Nightscape I* and Virginia LeNoir Fitzpatrick *Range* can be interpreted as either slightly haunting or tranquil depending on the audience's individual experiences. On the other hand, Caroline Feudale's depiction of Roman ruins in her print *Pines of Rome* explores the way history seems to haunt the present by imbuing us with an ever-constant reminder of the past and how that influences our actions and ideas today.

Explorations of cultural memory and re-connection are explored in the work of Ana Mendieta, whose photograph *Iyare (Mother)* from *The Rupestrian Series* depicts one of her cave carvings. The work explores her own cultural history by using her art to connect with the religion of Cuban indigenous Taíno tribes by reinterpreting their goddesses into her own unique designs. The photo explores the artist's physical and spiritual connection to her homeland and how this was both present and absent after her immigration to the United States.

The idea of longing for lost futures feels especially relevant today when we consider the troubling events that have culminated within the last few years paired with our ongoing battles with climate change and political turmoil. But even in the best of times it is easy to look upon the past with a false fondness or as a way of attempting to understand one's current place in the world. While all working in different mediums and with varied concepts the artists included in *Traces* all explore these notions of memory, nostalgia, haunting, and

culture, and offer audiences an opportunity to examine our own notions of past and present.

Traces features the work of Carolyn Autry, Janet C. Ballweg, Charlotte Beam Beeler, Carolyn Brooks Curd, Esther Crawford, Caroline Feudale, Marcia Hite, Mary Lou Hess, Delores Wright Huffman, Virginia LeNoir Fitzpatrick, Jennie Lewis, Ana Mendieta, Mary Ann Nofsinger, Regina Powell, Aubrey Schwartz, Karen Spears, Dorothea Tanning, and Constance Clark Willis.

Traces is on view now at the University of Louisville Schneider Hall Galleries and will run through September 3, 2021. The gallery is open Mon-Fri 9am - 4:30 pm. A reception will be held on Friday August 27 from 5-7pm. For more information please visit our website: <https://louisville.edu/art>