

ART & ACTIVISM: AN EXHIBITION ABOUT CHANGE

August 25 - October 31, 2019

This exhibit assembled an impressive group of artists who addressed issues relevant to our time with ideas about politics, environment, and gender through printmaking, fiber arts, and installation. The breadth and influence of this exhibition aimed to enhance public awareness and encourage thoughtful process and engagement in civic discussion. A range of concurrent public programs challenged visitors to consider the power of politically driven art and how it affects society.

The anchor work in the exhibition was an enormous print project entitled *American Procession* by **Sandow Birk** and **Elyse Pignolet** (Los Angeles, CA). Their scrolling panorama of American icons and ideology was made from multiple woodcuts depicting prominent and lesser-known figures who have shaped both sides of the political spectrum throughout history.

Orly Cogan (New York, NY) brings women to the forefront in her textile works by embroidering, painting, and drawing contemporary feminist imagery onto vintage fabrics in an irreverent take on the conventions of femininity.

In her site-specific installation, *Disrupting the Gaze: A Spiritual Journey*, **Kanani Miyamoto** (Portland, OR) combined woodblock prints, screen prints, cut paper, and hand-painted elements that let viewers wander through a fluid organic space layered with the complexities of intergenerational trauma and impacts of colonialism.



Sandow Birk and Elyse Pignolet, *American Procession*, 2017
woodcut print hand-embellished with gold acrylic, printed on gampi paper, 48 x 480 in



Orly Cogan, *Searching for Eve*, 2019, mixed media installation



Kanani Miyamoto, *Disrupting the Gaze: A Spiritual Journey*, 2019
mixed media installation

Paul Mallowney (San Francisco, CA), a master printer and print publisher, used a combination of Eastern and Western printmaking techniques to render iconography from Japanese themes of Buddhism, Shinto, Noh and Kabuki Theater, and tattooing, integrating them into an enclosed space that encouraged a thoughtful process of transformation beginning with the self.

Abigail Romanchak (Maui, HI) is greatly influenced by the conceptual terrain of human imprint in nature, and her large-scale collagraph prints of avian spectrograms offered an environmentally driven commentary on Hawai'i's native birds, climate change, and causes of their endangerment and extinction.



Paul Mallowney, *Untitled*, 2019, mixed media installation



Abigail Romanchak, *Kāhea (A Call)*, 2019, collagraph print on sekishu paper, 64 x 277.5 in;
Kani Le'a (A Distinct Sound), 2019, collagraph print on sekishu paper, 78 x 64 in