



DUNES

CONTACT

BORU@DUNES.FYI

WEB

DUNES.FYI

ADDRESS

251 CONGRESS ST. PORTLAND, ME 04101

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Jared Buckhiester, Marley Freeman, Sachiko Akiyama

Jared Buckhiester (b. 1977, Dahlonega, GA) is a New York–based artist employing drawing, ceramics, and photography in what has been described as “a long–term project of representing beleaguered American masculinity through a gay male lens.” Buckhiester describes the varied and specific references as the “mud” of his practice. In his own words “My fascination is with the complexity of desire’s origin, and the ways in which it dictates behavior. I’m talking about an arousal template molded from the home interior and one’s own family unit, as well as from societal givens. For me the jewel is how this internal ‘carrot on a stick’ has the potential to complicate a moral compass, and I am most interested in this trouble.”

Buckhiester completed his MFA at the Milton Avery Graduate School of Arts at Bard College, and his BFA at Pratt Institute. He has been exhibiting his work since 2004, with solo shows at Feature Inc., Envoy Enterprises, Klaus Gallery, and Iceberg Projects among others. His work has been covered in *The New York Times*, *Interview Magazine*, *Artnet*, and more.

Marley Freeman (b. 1981, Lynn, MA) is a New York–based artist who combines the disciplines of abstract and representational painting. Her unique facture is characterized by the hand–mixed gesso, acrylic, as well as watercolor and oils she uses to create meticulous, psychologically–charged color fields. Through this technical process, she studies the ways in which paint “wants to perform.” “Pigments have their own ways of acting,” Freeman says, “and I became obsessed with learning their traits.” Freeman’s distinct vocabulary of forms is made up of brushy strokes, color washes, and shapes that freely transform across the picture plane. The influence of textile design is evident in her close attention to the textural subtleties of her paints, and her reverence for their surface effects—their impressions in the warp and weft of the canvas.

Freeman completed her MFA at the Milton Avery Graduate School of Arts at Bard College, New York, and her BFA at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Recent solo exhibitions include *Travesía Cuatro*, Guadalajara (2021); Parker Gallery, Los Angeles (2020); *Karma*, New York (2019); *Janice Guy* at MBnb, New York (2018); *PSM*, Berlin (2017); and *Cleopatra’s*, New York (2015), among others. Freeman’s work can be found in the collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York; RISD Museum, Providence, Rhode Island; and the San Antonio Museum of Art, San Antonio, Texas.

Sachiko Akiyama received her MFA in sculpture at Boston University and continued her studies at Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. Akiyama lives and works in Portsmouth, NH. Her proximity to the ocean, woods, and wildlife has deepened her connections to the natural themes prevalent in her work.

Akiyama has had recent solo exhibitions at Brattleboro Museum (Brattleboro, VT) and Tracey Morgan Gallery (Asheville, NC) and group exhibitions at Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Dartmouth College, Inman Gallery (Houston, TX), and Tiger Strikes Asteroid (Greenville, NC). Akiyama was awarded a Joan Mitchell Fellowship, an Artist Resource Trust Grant, and residencies at Millay Arts and Ucross.