

INSTALLATION IMAGE LIST

Blooming in the Whirlwind



Ismael de Anda III, *SWELL*, 2021, partial drum kit, cymbal, rotating motor, adhesive vinyl and mylar, LED lights, wood, latex paint, 31 x 46 x 30 inches



Dani Dodge, *Tears of Gold* (detail), 2021, installation, 72 x 72 x 72 inches



Arezoo Bharthania, *Holding On*, 2021, transferred images, plexiglass, mirror, acrylic paint, spray paint on lino, metal frame, 72 x 48 x 36 inches



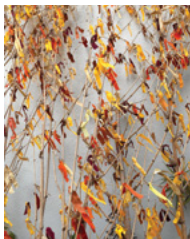
Kiyomi Fukui, *One Such Experience*, 2021, discarded chair, washi paper, pokeberry ink, 18 x 40.5 x 60.5 inches

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Tina Linville, *Post Cyclone*, 2021, found, dyed, and printed fabrics, sticks, rocks, cement, thread, yarn, paper, wax and clamp, 60 x 33 x 23 inches



Flora Kao, *Steadfast: Sacred Grove (detail)*, 2021, bamboo and salvaged silk, 132 x 120 x 180 inches



Ricardo Harris-Fuentes, *Becoming the Pattern*, 2021, Acrylic on canvas, black light, charms, 36 x 36 x 36 inches



Sean Noyce, *Swallow the Dirt That Made You*, 2021, sand, rocks, branches, PVC, digital video, custom code, monitor, mylar and wood, 98 x 36 x 36 inches

INSTALLATION IMAGE LIST

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Reed Van Brunshot,
For better, For worse,
2021, metal and fabric,
76 x 25 x 44 inches

FILM IMAGE LIST

Blooming in the Whirlwind



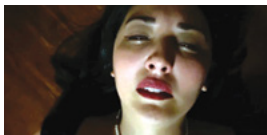
Alex Smith & Andrew Neel,
The Thump Thump
Thump of This Heart, 2020,
5:08 min video



Anthony Frederick,
Girl in Isolation, 2020,
2:47 min video



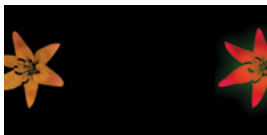
Andrés Vázquez,
Holding On, 2020,
3:52 min video



Rich Johnson,
One Such Experience, 2020,
4:03 min video



Labkhand Olfatmanesh,
post cyclone, 2020,
5:27 min video



Taree Vargas,
Steadfast, 2020,
2:18 min video

FILM IMAGE LIST

Blooming in the Whirlwind



Leila Jarman,
stopped, 2020,
1:22 min video



Meredith Adelaide,
There is No Such Thing As Bloom, 2020, 4:56 min video



Ilgin G. Korugan,
Ricki, 2020, 6:38 min video

PRESS RELEASE

Blooming in the Whirlwind



Reed Van Brunshot, *For better, For worse*, 2021, metal and fabric, 76 x 25 x 44 inches

On View:

Nov. 13 - Dec. 5, 2021 at Durden And Ray

Opening Reception:

Nov. 13, 6-10pm

Hours:

Saturdays and Sundays, 12-5pm, or by appointment

Swirling in the chaos and tragedy of the pandemic have been swift currents of creativity and collaboration. *Blooming in the Whirlwind*, Nov. 13 to Dec. 5, 2021 at Durden and Ray is a brilliant example of how creativity could not be contained by lockdowns and masking restrictions.

An opening reception will be held 6-10 p.m. Nov. 13, 2021. The show will be open 12 to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays during its run.

It started with poems, that inspired films, that, ultimately, inspired visual art installations. A collaboration of the Level Ground and Durden and Ray collectives, this is the first gallery show to display this series of transformations.

“The Level Ground Collective started this process at the beginning of the pandemic by inviting poets and then pairing their works with filmmakers,” said Durden and Ray curator/artist Arezoo Bharthania. “Durden and Ray sought to give this process a grand closure. In this final visual transformation, the curators matched installation artists to each film.”

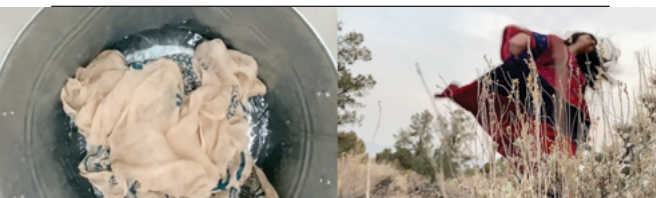
Blooming in the Whirlwind takes its name from a line found in the poet Gwendolyn Brooks’s 1968 classic, “The Second Sermon on the Warpland.” Writing in 1968—another year of upheaval and tragedy in America—Brooks encouraged readers to “conduct your blooming in the noise and whip of the whirlwind.”

At the Durden and Ray gallery, the poems will be in booklets that visitors can take with them, the videos will be displayed on a wall monitor, and the installations can be explored throughout the gallery.

“Each of the artists has reflected a moment of the pandemic with their creativity that inspired another work in a different moment,” Bharthania said. “This gallery show puts these moments and transformations together at the perfect time, the time we ourselves are transforming into a new pandemic/post-pandemic world.”

At the start, Level Ground curators Samantha Curley and Andy Motz chose poets to write about the moment. They then paired each selected poem with a filmmaker or filmmaking duo. Through a dynamic process of active dialogue and mutual cooperation the filmmakers then created a two- to five-minute short film that offers a visual reflection of the source poem. The works fulfill Level Ground’s mission of producing creative collaboration within and across different artistic mediums.

Then, Durden and Ray artist/curators, Arezoo Bharthania, Ismael de Anda III, and Sean Noyce, invited six visual artists to pair their artwork with the nine poem-films pairings. The visual artists were challenged to create art installations that echo of a voice from within their assigned film or to allow that



Labkhand Olfatmanesh, post cyclone, 2020, 5:27 min video

film to inspire a fresh or distinct perspective from their particular point of view.

In her poem, Christina Brown writes:

*there is no grow no progress no
unpeel or bloom without a rear view
mirror a burden of bloodline or consequence ...*

This exhibition explores the growth, the bloom, and the consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic in a unique and moving way through three different forms of art created in three different points of time. And through this process it proves, there can be blooming in a whirlwind.

Poets

Christina Brown, Daniel Binkoski, DeiSelah, Jireh Deng, Karly Kuntz, Madeleine St. John, Noor Jamal, Simone Tetrault, and Tamisha A. Tyler

Filmmakers

Andrés Vazquez, Anthony D. Frederick, Andrew Neel & Alex C. Smith, Ilgın G. Korugan, Labkhand Olfatmanesh, Leila Jarman, Meredith Adelaide, Rich Johnson, and Taree Vargas

Installation artists

Arezoo Bharthania, Ismael de Anda III, Dani Dodge, Kiyomi Fukui, Sean Noyce, Tina Linville, Reed Van Brunschot, Flora Kao, and Ricardo Harris-Fuentes

Durden and Ray curators

Arezoo Bharthania, Ismael de Anda III,
and Sean Noyce

Level Ground curators

Andy Motz, Rebekah Neel, Samantha Curley,
and Simone Tetrault