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For immediate release

## **Press Release**

### **Deconstructing (The)monstrosity of the Other**

Jan. 21- 30, 2020 Reception: January 24, 2020, 7:00- 9:00pm

This exhibit investigates the social and historical tendencies humans inhabit to divide each other into two groups. Such binary thinking encourages myths and stereotypes that are perpetuated through class, gender, cultural, and economic systems closely tied to politics. Inevitably, categorizing various groups of people within the 'other' without considering the intersection within these identities. Where are these divisions created? Which groups control narratives that wield power over others? Why? How can bridges be built between the two? With these questions in mind, the work shown will depict the artist's critical and reflexive analysis of experiences between the 'Us', the 'Other' and the Borderlands.

Krystle Lemonias, is a visual artist and art educator who acquired a BFA in printmaking from New Jersey City University in 2018. She has exhibited her work at the New York Academy of Art in the XL Catlin Art Prize Exhibition in 2018 and is an MFA candidate at the University of South Florida. Lemonias creates fabric paintings using relief printmaking techniques and fabric patching the portraits of female domestic workers in their work environments. Her work is primarily influenced by class, immigration, femininity, and its reference to gender roles. She is inspired by her family lineage and an interest in West African iconography. Her use of textiles and symbols in her portraiture intends to visually describe her subjects experiences.

Tatiana Mesa Paján is a Processual/Art-Life Artist who lands in different media such as Installation, Performance, Printmaking, Creative Writing, Artist Books, Founded Objects, and Ready-Mades. The final language chosen on her art pieces changes continuously and depends on questions regarding Documentation, Memory, and Gaze. While the body of her production alters, her sensibility remains close to Archeological, Anthropological, and Linguistic Studies. An Archeology of her own Present is the center of the research, fascinated by human nature and subjectivity.

Aimee Jones is a visual artist and current MFA candidate at the University of South Florida. She has exhibited in Texas, Spain, and was a participant in the HANNAC Can Borni Residency in Barcelona. She specializes in painting portraits, exploring the figure, and the fleeting, intimate moments that happen between herself and her sitters. After studying advertising in Texas, she moved to Italy to study under a ceramic artist who taught her to paint Italian renaissance style art. From there, she moved to Madrid for 3 years and has been creating work from her experiences immigrating to Spain and her repatriation back into the United States. Using these past experiences, she continues to explore intimate moments by distorting and exaggerating the awkwardness and playfulness of her subjects.

Marlon Tobias is a visual artist that takes an intimate investigation into the lives of African Americans. Drawing from his multi-ethnic background Marlon challenges the monolithic perspective of people from the African diaspora by examining the multifaceted diversity that lies within it. He mixes various hues of browns, reds, and blues to challenge the label of "Black". Through capturing candid moments he aims to shine a light on the innumerable complexities of African Americans and tap into the viewer's empathy in order to humanize the pursuit for civil rights. Marlon Tobias received a Bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration in Communication and Design from Florida A&M University. He is currently based out of Tampa, Florida where he is pursuing his MFA in Studio Art at the University of South Florida.

Kirsten Pettifor is a visual artist who received their BFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2018 and is currently attending the MFA program at The University of South Florida. Their work takes on many modalities combining journaling with installation, screen printing, fiber, illustration, diorama building, and cartography/GIS (geographic information system). With these materials and others they confront the domestic patriarchy and years of childhood abuse within their family. All while simultaneously exploring different means of obtaining security and comfort.