

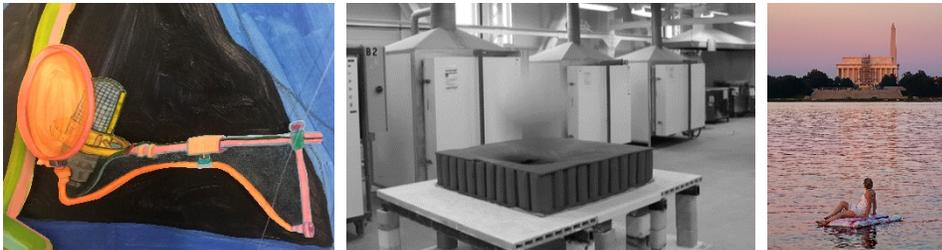


AT HILLYER

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Allison Nance, Gallery Director
allisonn@artsandartists.org ; 202.338.0325

December 11, 2019



What: January exhibitions featuring Tessa Click, Neil Forrest, and Noel Kassewitz.

When: January 3 – February 2, 2020

Where: IA&A at Hillyer, 9 Hillyer Court NW, Washington, DC 20008

Reception: January 3, 2020, 6-9pm (During Dupont Circle's First Friday; Free, \$8 Suggested Donation)

Artist Talks with Noel Kassewitz and Tessa Click: January 7th at 6:30pm

More Info: <http://athillyer.org>

Description: Hillyer presents three new exhibitions featuring Tessa Click, Neil Forrest, and Noel Kassewitz. Click's *Search Party for Two* seeks understanding of the real world by using absurd characters, props, and settings as proxy. Forrest's work incorporates imagery from architecture and historical events that reference national and cultural identities; in *The Washingtonian Service* Forrest reinterprets the MLK library as a porcelain colosseum on collision between a celestial object with this contested landmark, forecasting a cosmic problem as much as an existential one. Kassewitz's *Rococo Remastered* examines how a painter copes with a rapidly changing cultural and environmental landscape through the lens of art history where she delves into the historical clues left to us by the pastel colored art movement that preceded France's revolution and reinterprets the works through the lens of Miami pool party culture for today's audience. Guests can meet Click and Kassewitz at the reception on Friday, January 3rd from 6-9pm, sponsored by Pesce DC and the Embassy of Canada.

(Washington, DC) IA&A at Hillyer presents three new solo exhibitions featuring Tessa Click, Neil Forrest, and Noel Kassewitz. The exhibitions will **open on Friday, January 3, 2020 and will run through Sunday, February 2, 2020**. Click and Kassewitz will be present to talk about their work with visitors at the **reception on Friday, January 3, 2020 from 6-9pm**.

Tessa Click (Washington, DC), *Search Party for Two*

Based in symbolic language, this body of work seeks understanding of the real world by using absurd

characters, props, and settings as proxy. Intertwined with otherworldly imagery, mundane scenes set the stage for playing out unseen connections between internal and external conflicts. In Click's *Search Party for Two*, these mixed-media paintings and structures invite the viewer to consider concepts of potentiality and agency in uncertain times.

Originally from Carmel, IN, Tessa Click received a Master of Fine Arts from Lesley University in Cambridge, MA and a Bachelor of Science from Ball State University. Click relocated to Washington, DC in 2012 where she currently lives and works.

Neil Forrest (Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada), *The Washingtonian Service*

Neil Forrest's works examine historical events, architectural monuments, and national identities, and uses the lens of ceramic history to play out corporeal and material elements of storytelling. The installations aspire to a logos of craft, site, and knowledge. Forrest's *The Washingtonian Service* is a colosseum, a collision and a suite of celestial objects that meet in DC. The colosseum appears as the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library and is emblematic of a golden age in a salient city. The real MLK Library, soon to be re-incarnated and re-inhabited, was a city's search for modern identity in architectural form. Admired by an elite but perhaps unloved by many, architect Mies van der Rohe's library is itself a story-line in Washington. Forrest's rendition of this icon as a porcelain model is both a fascination with miniatures and a flirtation with great centerpieces such as Napoleon's commissioned Egyptian Service. If Napoleon used a porcelain miniature to glorify his expeditionary force in Egypt, *The Washingtonian Service* instead hosts the rare chance of a collision between a celestial object with a contested landmark, forecasting a cosmic problem as much as an existential one.

Neil Forrest is an artist and professor at Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in Halifax, Canada and taught at the Oslo National Academy of the Arts in Norway. He has exhibited at the Denver Art Museum, the Museum Hilversum in The Netherlands, the Cheongju Biennale in Korea, and has received Established Artist's grants from the Canada Council and the Norwegian Artistic Research Council.

Noel Kassewitz (Washington, DC), *Rococo Remastered*

Noel Kassewitz's practice examines how a painter copes with a rapidly changing cultural and environmental landscape. Using experimental techniques that blur the line between painting and sculpture, passive and active object, cultural artifact and survival tool, she works to examine this moment in time through the lens of art history, rising social pressures, and commodified disaster preparedness. In her latest body of work, *Rococo Remastered*, she delves into the historical clues left to us by the pastel colored art movement that preceded France's revolution and reinterprets the works through the lens of Miami pool party culture for today's audience.

Noel Kassewitz was born and raised in Miami, Florida. Her works have exhibited nationally in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Miami, as well as internationally in Milan and Bologna, Italy. She currently resides in Washington, DC.

Gallery Information

IA&A at Hillyer (formerly Hillyer Art Space) is a program of International Arts & Artists (IA&A), a nonprofit arts service organization dedicated to promoting cross-cultural understanding and exposure to the arts internationally. IA&A fulfills its mission by providing programs and services to artists, arts institutions, cultural organizations, and the public. Hillyer supports IA&A's mission through a series of exhibitions and public programs that feature local, regional, and international artists. Hillyer's exhibition series focuses on under-represented artists, both emerging and established, that have not had a major solo exhibition within the last three years. Hillyer is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, The Morris and Gwendolyn

Cafritz Foundation, and the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. We are located in Dupont Circle, next to the Phillips Collection, in Washington, DC, two blocks from the Red Line Metro, Dupont Circle Q Street Exit. The gallery is open seven days a week, Saturday-Monday 12-5pm, Tuesday-Friday 12-6pm, and by appointment.

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High-resolution images available upon request