



AT HILLYER

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What: March Exhibitions featuring Spencer Dormitzer, Michal Gavish, and *Transcendence* juried by Antonius Bui

When: March 1st – 31st, 2019

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

Opening Reception: Friday March 1st, 2019, 6-9pm
(During Dupont Circle's First Friday; Free, \$8 Suggested Donation)

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

Description: Hillyer presents three new exhibitions opening on March's First Friday, featuring Spencer Dormitzer, Michal Gavish, and *Transcendence* juried by Antonius Bui. Dormitzer's *PONDER... er ING or, I AM THE ASTEROID* is the culmination of a year-long series of drawings, exploring the idea of having conversations with yourself about simple, yet profound concepts. From a distance, orbs of various hues and sizes seem to float upon the surface of the paper but as the viewer gets closer to the work, the sphere becomes frenzied and confused as meticulous marks create a sculptural or fibrous aesthetic. Gavish's *Crystal Architecture* is an installation converting the gallery into an urban landscape using large hanging prints of buildings of the central avenues in Washington, DC. Influenced by the artist's background as a scientist, each image is layered and appears to grow out of one another, similar to the growth patterns of the crystals she used to study. Juried by Antonius-Tín Bui, *Transcendence* is a group exhibition that asked artists who identify as members of the LGBTQIA+ community to respond to and question the construct of gender and its role in our society. Guests can meet the artists at the opening reception on Friday, March 1st from 6-9pm, during Dupont Circle's First Friday Gallery Walk.

(Washington, DC) IA&A at Hillyer (formerly Hillyer Art Space) presents three new exhibitions opening on March's First Friday, featuring two solo exhibitions by Spencer Dormitzer and Michal Gavish, and the group exhibition *Transcendence*, juried by Antonius-Tin Bui. The exhibitions will **open on March 1st, 2019 and will run through Sunday, March 31st, 2019**. The Dormitzer, Gavish, and Bui, along with several of the *Transcendence* artists will be present to talk guests at the **opening reception on Friday, March 1st, 2019 from 6-9pm**.

PONDER... er ING or, I AM THE ASTEROID | Spencer Dormitzer (Washington DC)

PONDER... er ING or, I AM THE ASTEROID is the culmination of a year-long series of drawings that Spencer Dormitzer embarked on in September 2017. The concept arose from ideas of thinking, or the confusion of thinking—having very difficult conversations in one's head about very simple, but sometimes profound ideas. From a distance, colorful orbs seem to float upon the surface of the paper; as the viewer gets closer to the work, the sphere becomes frenzied and confused as meticulous marks create a sculptural or fibrous aesthetic. When Dormitzer first started this series he was struggling to articulate himself to others. Finding the correct words for basic conversations was becoming increasingly difficult due to stress and social anxiety. Dormitzer says these works and the process of making them have been a welcome obsession, as each drawing session unlocks a myriad of emotional responses—Zen, boredom, self-doubt, courage, comfort, and impatience, much like the emotional responses to significant ideas. The co-titles play on this process and concept: I ponder, therefore I am a PONDERER of PONDERINGS, while *I AM THE ASTEROID* dwells on the loneliness and stargazed thought process of making these pieces.

Spencer Dormitzer attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1986 and has been a working artist for over 30 years. He previously worked as a Studio Manager for New York Abstractionist David Reed and as an Executive Producer for the New York Cosmos. Dormitzer has had over 75 group and solo exhibitions nationally and internationally. He is the former Director of Joan Hisaoka Healing Arts Gallery in Washington DC. Currently, Dormitzer is the Director of Brentwood Arts exchange in Brentwood MD. He has managed, curated, or juried over 30 exhibitions in the DC-metro region.

Crystal Architecture | Michal Gavish (Washington D.C)

To a chemist, urban structures are familiar: they look naturally constructed, growing like crystals under the microscopes. Michal Gavish, originally a scientist studying these formations, now creates large, handmade prints of cityscapes in the manner of the crystals she used to research. In her new exhibition, *Crystal Architecture*, Gavish exhibits prints deconstructing her new hometown of Washington, DC.

Gavish rearranges her photography-based images of city buildings into geometries that extend vertically. She recasts familiar city streets into invented layouts, instilling undercurrents of turmoil in the magnificent, quiet buildings. She builds scaffoldings of infinitely long rows of windows and columns. These careful compositions of multiple lines, squares and rectangles display magnificent patterns of crystalline-like geometries. Printed on translucent fabric layers, the vacant structures become intimate memories of contemporary archaeological sites. These images emerge like thin embroidery patterns that sometimes appear flat and at other moments are three-dimensional.

Michal Gavish is an installation artist currently living and working in Washington, DC. She received her MFA in painting from the San Francisco Art Institute. Previously, she had earned a PhD in Physical Chemistry, which continues to influence her art and science practice. Her works were exhibited internationally in solo shows at the Budapest Museum, LIU and Garrison art centers in New York, Spinerei in Leipzig, Germany, and Sandra Lee in San Francisco to name a few. Among her group shows were the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco, Stanford University, ZeroOne in Silicon Valley, Venus Knitting in Brooklyn, Sonoma Art Museum in California, Bogota Art Fair, Columbia and more. Gavish writes reviews for Sciart

Magazine and lectures extensively on Art and Science. She has curated group shows in the New York area and has been awarded several artist residencies in NYC and Europe.

Transcendence | Juried by Antonius-Tín Bui

Juried by Antonius-Tín Bui, *Transcendence* is a group exhibition that asked artists who identify as members of the LGBTQIA+ community to respond to and question the construct of gender and its role in our society. Selected artists include Ash Cheshire, Marion Colomer, J. Casey Doyle, Vân Anh, Dusty Rose, Sidney Mullis, John Thomas Paradiso, Maritza Ranero, Ashleigh Rose Robb, Hillary Rochon, Alex Dolores Salerno, K. Sarrantonio, Erin Smego, Sarah Stefana Smith, Diana Walsh, Sandra Chen Chen Weinstein, and Qigemu, and Your Rouge Photography.

About the juror: Antonius-Tín Bui (b. 1992) is a queer, gender-nonbinary, Vietnamese-American artist who recently graduated from the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). Since graduating from MICA, Bui has been awarded fellowships from the Vermont Studio Center, Kala Art Institute, Tulsa Artists Fellowship, Halcyon Arts Lab, and Houston Center for Contemporary Craft. They are currently interested in complicating Vietnamese history and queerness through performance, textiles, and photography.

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. 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