



## AT HILLYER

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July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019



**What:** August exhibitions featuring Emily Fussner, Christopher Kojzar, and *Starting from the Island: Contemporary Art from Taiwan*

**When:** Fussner & Kojzar: August 2<sup>nd</sup> – September 1<sup>st</sup>, *Starting from the Island*: August 2 – September 29, 2019

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

**Reception:** August 2, 2019, 6-9pm (During Dupont Circle's First Friday; Free, \$8 Suggested Donation)

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

**Description:** Hillyer presents three new exhibitions featuring solo presentations by Emily Fussner and Christopher Kojzar, and *Starting from the Island: Contemporary Art from Taiwan*, curated by Yan-Huei Chen of Art Bank Taiwan. Using light, poetry, sculpture, and photography, Fussner's *In Light Of*— questions notions of time, presence, and healing by bringing into focus the fleeting patterns of light and cracks that often only flicker in our peripheral vision. Kojzar's *Plainclothes Agenda* uses mixed-media images, drawing, collage, interactive sculpture, video, and writing about interactions he has had when he shares open and public spaces with others. In *Starting from the Island*, Yun-Ting Hun, Kuen-Lin Tsai, Tai-Chun Chou, and Don Don Houmwm connect their multi-local life experiences and environmental observations in a fast-changing contemporary environment of information overload. Guests can meet the Fussner, Kojzar, and Tsai at the reception on Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6-9pm.

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(Washington, DC) IA&A at Hillyer presents three new exhibitions featuring Emily Fussner, Christopher Kojzar, and *Starting from the Island, Contemporary Art from Taiwan*, curated by Yan-Huei Chen of Art Bank Taiwan and featuring Yun-Ting Hun, Kuen-Lin Tsai, Tai-Chun Chou, and Don Don Houmwm. **The exhibitions will open on Friday, August 2, 2019. Fussner and Kojzar's shows will run through September 1, 2019.**

***Starting from the Island* will run through September 29, 2019.** The Fussner, Kojzar, and Tsai will be present to talk about their work with visitors at the **reception on Friday, August 2, 2019 from 6-9pm.**

**Emily Fussner: *In Light Of*— (Fairfax, VA)**

*In Light Of*— questions notions of time, presence, and healing by bringing into focus the fleeting patterns of light and cracks that often only flicker in our peripheral vision. Considering these mundane ephemeral moments with attention and care, they become thresholds of possibility. Photographs and on-site tracings translated into books, poetry, and sculpture, give form to what is usually transient and intangible, inhabiting a gap between passing and dwelling, between a reflection of what is and a proposal of what could be.

Emily Fussner (b. 1991, Indonesia) is an artist based in Northern Virginia. She holds a BS in Printmaking from Indiana Wesleyan University (2013) and an MFA in Visual Arts from George Mason University (2019). Studying abroad with Gordon College in Orvieto, Italy, and with American University's MFA Studio Berlin residency program also influenced her greatly. Fussner has professional experience in graphic design, teaching printmaking and papermaking, and arts administration. In the past she worked for the Joan Hisaoka Healing Arts Gallery in Washington, DC, and most recently curated exhibitions as the Graduate Professional Assistant for Fenwick Gallery at George Mason University.

Often tracing and photographing shapes of sunlight and shadow, or filling and casting cracks in the ground with paper pulp, Fussner transfers her site-specific observations into installations, sculptures, and artist books. She poetically considers these familiar yet peripheral patterns to explore the relationship of place and the body, questions of fragility and healing, transience and presence, care and possibility. Fussner was awarded a 2018-2019 Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Graduate Fellowship, has had solo exhibitions in the Gillespie Gallery in the School of Art at GMU and the Art Lab at Workhouse Arts Center, and exhibited in group shows regionally and internationally.

**Christopher Kojzar: *Plainclothes Agenda* (Baltimore, MD)**

Christopher Kojzar uses drawings made while in airports, train stations, public parks, government buildings; live-action videos of him walking and driving; and audio recordings of interviews with people he has encountered; along with a published digital article from Seventh Wave Magazine to share his experience in open and public spaces with others. Kojzar presents his art as a contemporary Black flâneur who documents shared spaces and challenges the right to observe and be idle in public. Kojzar takes into consideration the binary rhetoric of the 'see something, say something' campaign. In light of the #livingwhileblack hashtag, which is punctuated by implicit racial biases, and the various fears that have come to define our observational habits, Kojzar aims to point to today's absurd standards about hyper-security, surveillance, and the right to be idle in public spaces.

Christopher Kojzar received a B.A. in International Affairs from George Washington University and an MFA in Intermedia and Digital Arts from the University of Maryland Baltimore County. A list of residencies include the Creative Alliance in Baltimore, Crosstown Arts in Memphis, the Seventh Wave Residency in Rhinebeck, NY, and the Truth and Reconciliation Residency at the Santa Fe Art Institute. Christopher creates art in response to interactions he has with other people when he enters active public spaces and openly engages in artistic practices such as drawing or recording with wearable technology. Prompted by interactions with security personnel, bystanders and the spaces themselves, his work explores observing and being observed in an era of escalating surveillance and mistrust—complicating it further by signaling his identity as an artist. His encounters have produced drawing, immersive video and sculptural installation about seeing and being seen, the oppositional gaze and the implied hierarchies of observation.

***Starting from the Island* in partnership with the Taiwan ArtBank**

*Starting from the Island* shows how the artists discuss the global social issues from personal experiences and

concerns in the contemporary environment of a massive amount of information and rapid changes. Starting from their own emotion and imagination, they analyze the land they situate and speak to the external world through their works. Hence, a “space of imagination” is thus represented.

**Selected Artists include:**

Hung Yun-Ting

Tsai Kuen-Lin

Dondon Houmwm

Chou Tai-Chun

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**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*