

## For Immediate Release

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## Major Exhibition Opening of 36 artists at the Staten Island Museum

***Yes, And: a survey exhibition of art and artists connected to Staten Island set to open June 10, 2022***

(Staten Island, NY – June 2, 2022) The Staten Island Museum’s latest exhibition ***Yes, And: a survey exhibition of art and artists connected to Staten Island*** opens to the public on June 10, 2022 with a public reception on June 11 from 2PM – 4PM. This exhibition, featuring thirty-six artists, is a current version of the Staten Island Museum’s longstanding tradition of holding juried art shows for more than 70 years.

***Yes, And*** presents recent work in video, performance, painting, photography, installation, drawing, and more. Together, thirty-six artists express themes of connectivity, resilience, and vitality, reflecting this time in history when a global pandemic continues to teach us the fundamental importance of relationships and the meaning of place. This hyperlocal exhibition references life on an island, legacies of self-determination, land development over time, and the enduring power of nature. ***Yes, And*** explores what it means to be connected to Staten Island.



Arlette Cepeda, *Flor and Granddaughter* - *Family Portraits*, 2021. Digital Photograph.

“The Staten Island Museum has long been committed to presenting local artists with exhibiting opportunities. We recognize how the past two years have impacted our local artist community, and the museum wants to use this exhibition to shed light on the creative community here and make more visible the stories they have to tell. As we celebrate the Museum’s 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, this is the right moment to revive a longstanding tradition and support artists with a major group exhibition,” states Janice Monger, Staten Island Museum President & CEO

The Staten Island Museum is providing \$30,000 in stipends to participating artists in accordance with W.A.G.E. (Working Artists and the Greater Economy) and thanks to support from Amazon, New York State Council on the Arts, the Lily Auchincloss Foundation, and Staten Island Advance/Sllive.

The theme **Yes, And** suggests the abundance of experience on and perception of Staten Island. This complicated and prodigious borough contains a multitude of narratives that cumulatively offer an earnest impression of life in the United States.

The title is a reference to a classic improv rule-of-thumb requiring performers to accept what another participant is suggesting, and then build on it. In this way, **Yes, And** presents an expansive theme for artists to consider and encourages the open sharing of ideas and perspectives.

The complete list of artists follows:

Irma Bohórquez- Geisler  
Mary L. Bullock  
Robert Bunkin  
Linda Butti  
Arlette Cepeda  
Edward Coppola  
Lisa Dahl  
Day de Dada  
Natasha Do  
Alanna Dunn  
Kevyn Fairchild  
Phyllis J. Featherstone  
Volker Goetze  
Susan Grabel  
Terry S. Hardy  
Griselda Healy  
Kay Healy  
Katarina Jerinic

Nathan Kensinger  
Sizhu Li  
LuLu LoLo  
Jahtiek Long  
Paul Moakley  
Bill Murphy  
Zahra Pars  
Samuel Partal  
Sage Reynolds  
James Francis Richards  
John Sanderson  
Mike Shane  
Stevie Ray Soloway  
Rob Stephenson  
Alana Urcia  
Amanda Wu & Zach Rothman-Hicks  
Yu Zhang



Paul Moakley, *Pre-Prom Party at my sister's house, Tottenville, Staten Island, 2019.* Photograph.



**Yes, And** includes films such as “Managed Retreat” by Nathan Kensinger, an important document of Staten Island's rapidly changing landscape, which creatively captures aspects of the borough's history and ecology that would otherwise not be seen.



Nathan Kensinger, *Managed Retreat*, 2018. Video.

Jahtiek Long presents photography and video with the goal of shifting the narrative of Staten Island. “You don’t know what it’s like” calls into question which stories are told and untold. He illuminates problems unique to the borough, while expressing pride and urging the public to look more closely.



Jahtiek Long, *Brooklyn Messing with Staten*, 2020. Digital Photograph, 18 x 20 in.



Terry S. Hardy, *The James Zappalorti Memorial Mandala*, 2022.  
Discarded cemetery flowers. 5'x5'x5"

Terry S. Hardy's recent work focuses on the intimacy of loss and memorializing those who are forgotten. For *Yes, And*, the artist created "The James Zappalorti Memorial Mandala" made of silk flowers collected from graveyards throughout the Southeastern United States. In 1990, Vietnam War veteran Jimmy Zappalorti was murdered near his home on the South Shore of Staten Island because he was gay. The highly publicized murder helped lead to New York State's first hate crimes bill passed in 2000.

The design features elements from Jimmy's life: the Navy compass, cross, patriotic colors, sunsets, being a gay man, the Staten Island countryside with a nod to the colored shapes of his family's stained glass business on Androvette Street.



LuLu LoLo is inspired by the museum's natural science collection to create "Listening to Birds", an interactive installation featuring taxidermy and photography from the museum's collection alongside an audio compilation of native bird songs. The artist asks guests to record in writing their response to the bird songs and the memories they inspire.

LuLu LoLo

*Listening to the Birds (Performance by LuLu LoLo)*, 2022

Photograph by Paul Takeuchi Costume, Headpiece by Ramona Ponce

Performance for Shared Dialogue, Shared Space Korea Art Forum, Inwood Hill Park, April 30, 2022



Kay Healy's "Pile" presents screen-printed, painted, and stuffed fabric objects that represent the complexities of the last two years marked by social uprisings and a global pandemic. Every piece in the installation has a story, many of which were inspired by interviews conducted by the artist around the significance of personal objects. Through this life-size installation, Healy investigates themes of home, loss, displacement, and resilience.



Kay Healy, *Pile*, 2021. Acrylic and screen prints on fabric, polyester fiber fill, 12' x 16' x 5"



James Francis Richards, *Untitled Sandy Ground Project*, Video, 2021.



Linda Butti, *Late Afternoon*, 2019. Oil on canvas.



Stevie Ray Soloway, *Don't Just Stand There*, Archival Digital Print, 2020

Participating artists were chosen from over two hundred submissions in response to an open call. The selection panel was comprised of respected colleagues in their field including artist **Ayana Evans**; art dealer and gallery director **Florence Lynch**; curator and gallerist **Anthony Spinello**; artist, curator, producer, and educator **Ed Woodham**.

### **Image List and Artist Quotes:**

#### **Arlette Cepeda**

*Flor and Granddaughter - Family Portraits, 2021*

Digital Photography

12" x 18"

"My ancestry comes from an island in the Caribbean. Coming from an island and living on another one, makes me feel I belong and that my destiny is to leave an indelible positive mark here on Staten Island, both as an artist and a professional."

#### **Paul Moakley**

*Pre-Prom Party at my sister's house Tottenville, Staten Island, 2019*

Photograph

20" x 24"

"Making photographs has always provided a safe way to process my queer identity. I'm fascinated by their unique ability to record reality and stand as an artful expression. The ambiguous space they occupy intrigues me to experiment with diaristic documentary narratives. In my photos and films of Staten Island, I see a microcosm of America, where the most pressing social and political issues are inescapable from our private lives."

#### **Nathan Kensinger**

*Managed Retreat, 2018*

Video

"My art practice examines the intersections of human habitation, natural landscapes, and climate change along the waterfront of New York City...I have been creatively documenting Staten Island's waterfront for the past 15 years, as part of my larger body of work about the city's entire waterfront."

#### **Jahtiek Long**

*Brooklyn Messing with Staten, 2020*

Digital Photograph

18" x 20"

"I make my work for the Island, so we can feel reflected, especially those who feel left out of the conversation when we think about Staten Island culture and representation in the narrative."

#### **Terry S. Hardy**

*The James Zappalorti Memorial Mandala, 2022*

Discarded cemetery flowers

5' x 5' x 5"

"In 1999, I would make my first visit to Staten Island and the Ocean View Cemetery. I found myself walking in the places where Jimmy walked. Imagining and channeling his love of the



sunsets, Arthur Kill, Androvette Street. Spending time just trying to be in his moment. Upon leaving Staten Island that visit, I started to visualize a format for how to approach memorial art making. I would build on that information in the coming decades all inspired by Jimmy Zappalorti."

**LuLu LoLo**

*Listening to the Birds (Performance by LuLu LoLo), 2022*

Photograph by Paul Takeuchi Costume, Headpiece by Ramona Ponce

Performance for Shared Dialogue, Shared Space Korea Art Forum, Inwood Hill Park, April 30, 2022

**Kay Healy**

*Pile, 2021*

Acrylic and screen prints on fabric, polyester fiber fill

12' x 16' x 5"

"My very first memory of a school trip was to the Staten Island Museum in St. George around 1989. My first grade class had a tour of the Museum's collection of Native American artifacts and taught us to make pinch pots. To this day, I teach the same pinch pot method to first and second graders in Philadelphia public schools as a teaching artist with a local community arts center."

**Linda Butti**

*Late Afternoon, 2019*

Oil on canvas

30" x 36"

"Staten Island opened my eyes to the stunning world of nature and spirit."

**James Francis Richards**

*Untitled Sandy Ground Project, 2021*

Digital video

Interpretive movement by Imani Moss

"My relationship to Staten Island began when I moved here from my home borough of Queens in 2014. From the minute my wife and I settled down, nothing at all conformed to all the stereotypes we heard about the Island. We have been to this day, constantly surprised by the multiplicity of this place, that whatever you think about someone you just met here you are probably wrong, and that that person contains multitudes."

**Stevie Ray Soloway**

*Don't Just Stand There, 2020*

Archival Digital Print

12" x 18"

"Upon arriving 25 years ago I did not embrace Staten Island. It seemed cold, overpopulated, and overbuilt. While browsing in a local bookstore I found a book called The Secret Places of Staten Island which directed me to the Greenbelt and the beaches hidden treasures within an urban area which is only 14 miles long, but to the casual observer would not know of these treasures. Over the years I've developed a Staten Island pride, if you will. A sanctuary for my spirits and artistic endeavors is right here in Staten Island, my home for the last 25 years."

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**Council on  
the Arts**



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**About the Staten Island Museum**

Founded in 1881 and celebrating its 140<sup>th</sup> year, the Staten Island Museum engages visitors with interdisciplinary exhibitions and educational programs that explore the dynamic connections between natural science, art, and history based on its diverse collections. The Staten Island Museum is a proud member of the Cultural Institutions Group (CIG), a public-private partnership with the City of New York, and receives operating support from the City of New York through the Department of Cultural Affairs, Commissioner Laurie Cumbo, from Mayor Eric Adams and the City Council, Speaker Adrienne E. Adams, with additional support from Staten Island delegation and the Staten Island Borough President, Vito Fossella. For current exhibits, visit [www.statenislandmuseum.org](http://www.statenislandmuseum.org).

**Visitor Information**

The Staten Island Museum is located on the grounds of Snug Harbor at 1000 Richmond Terrace, Building A, Staten Island, NY 10301. Public hours are: Wednesday – Sunday, 11am – 5pm. Staten Island Museum Members and children under 2: Free. Admission is suggested, Adults: \$8, Seniors/Students: \$5, Children: \$2. For the most up to date information please go to [www.statenislandmuseum.org/visit](http://www.statenislandmuseum.org/visit).

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