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For Immediate Release:

SOHO20
C H E L S E A

UP CLOSE

The Soho20 National Affiliates Exhibition

June 23 - July 18, 2015

Opening Reception:

Thursday, June 25, 5-8 PM



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What do you show when your gallery's floor plan suddenly shrinks from the footprint of a ranch house to a kitchen garden? In the exhibition **Up Close**, SOHO20's thirteen National Affiliate members answer: "Go reconfigure." Stretch the attention span. Contract physical boundaries. Paint a single brushstroke. Scream in a whisper. Or say "To hell with it," and let the others adapt. Each artist in her distinct manner prepares to redefine intimate space.

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What the artists make and say:

Louise Farrell (Massachusetts): Wall sculptures of **Adam and Eve** in plaster and encaustic. "When one sees 'up close,' one only sees details. As our initial parents, these figures are pared down to the essential parts."

Gail Hoffman (New York): **History Lesson #2**, installation of a small classroom taught by the Venus de Milo with video streaming out of the chalkboard. "Get close enough and spend the time to intuitively experience the history, memories, nostalgia and loss."

Virginia Tyler (North Carolina): **Orbit**, a thin silver chain hanging from the ceiling, milkweed seeds tied to a link. "It reminds me of how small a soul is in the universe. We are each exquisite and insignificant."

Georgia Strange (Georgia): **Imaginary Friend: Fear**, portraits of real and imaginary people contemplating the specter of death. "It may feel claustrophobic, but somehow this rapid-pulse reflection can result in the embrace of life and re-engagement with the present."

B. Amore (Vermont): **Tree of Life**, disparate found gloves composed in an ascending fashion, like a growing plant, to make a statement of hope about the human condition. "'Up Close' is an opportunity to take a look at what is really important in life."

Ann Rowles (Georgia): **Albatross: Resurgens**, a tedious and lengthy reworking of an earlier piece representing my mother, which was damaged by water. "I needed to hold the work 'up close' to make amends, to attempt a resurrection of sorts!"

Karen Baldner (Indiana): **Letting Go**, a ten-foot-long book with 450 pages bound in the piano hinge style. "The fallout from downsizing my studio of 37 years, this book contains pages from every stage of my life as an artist and every medium or approach I ever took."

Fran Bull (Vermont): **Scribble Scrabble Series**, etchings made from scribbled figures sandblasted on Plexiglas plate. "Look closely at the grain of the lines. I literally drew with sand."

Barb Rehg (Georgia): **Chalkboard Opportunities**, Graffiti over past paintings and drawings. "Working on a blackboard with chalk reminds me life is a school and I am here to learn."

Rosie G. Thompson (North Carolina): **Little Houses with Skeletons Series**, painted wood constructions of houses exposing "up close" dismembered skeletal remains, permitting investigations of rites, rituals, and practices that celebrate life, death, and afterlife. "It is through 'up close' investigations, while working with dissimilar materials and images and bringing work to fruition, that my concrete experience of 'oneness' is understood."

Nelleke Nix (Washington and New York City): **Broken Timeline** deals with running out of time. "The gallery is close to our heart. We don't mind that we are going to be up close, as friends in art should be, when it is time to be close."

Elizabeth Michelman (Massachusetts): **Chapter Book**, words on a page as structure. "Only up against the clock do I recognize what's important to make or say. Get it down quickly however it comes. Keep it fresh."

Mary Whalen (Michigan) Mary Whalen creates intimate images using early technologies of photography. "My narrative **Birds, Bones, Nests and Eggs** is inspired and informed by my recent discovery of the WMU ornithology collection. It brings to the fore the intricate details of shape, blended colors, refinement of minute patterns in bone, shell, claw and form and reflects academic categorizing in our recent past."

For more information, please contact the gallery at 212-367-8994 or info@soho20gallery.com

This exhibition is generously supported by Lagunitas Brewing Company.

