Description

Spokane Arts is excited to present *Threshold*, a group exhibit featuring the work of six Northwest artists at the Chase Gallery this summer. Using paint, printmaking, and drawing, on a variety of materials, these artists explore ideas of home, connection and boundaries. Through diverse approaches, the work in *Threshold* centers on themes of home and housing, migration and immigration, environment and boundaries. Featuring work by Sam Marroquin, Laura Ahola-Young, May Kytonen, Mariah Boyle, Sally Machlis and Delphine Keim, the powerful individual pieces in the exhibit invite the viewer to examine the many thresholds we approach and cross in our lives.

Discussion Questions

1. Close your eyes and think of the word “threshold”. What images do you see? What different types of thresholds can you think of? As you look at the artwork in this exhibit, do you see reflections of any of the things you imagined?

2. May Kytonen’s work investigates what is hidden versus what is revealed, especially in regards to a person’s identity, history, and wounds. Reflect on what you feel compelled to hide or protect. What would change if you revealed something about yourself in a piece of art? When you look at Kytonen’s collages, do you find yourself investigating them to learn more about her identity or do they inspire you to examine your own identity or history?
3. Sam Marroquin aims to uncover truths avoided by popular culture and media. In her artist statement, Marroquin shares, “Uncovering truth becomes a way of documenting current history while looking to the past as well as the future.” Do you think Marroquin is successful in documenting our current history in her work?

4. In their collaborative piece *I think, I know* Delphin Keim and Sally Machilis investigate how political discourse has become increasingly difficult and how we can change our outlook from “I know” to “I think” in order to improve our communication and our understanding of each other. Analyze how Keim and Machilis accomplish this through visual elements, such as, the use of diptychs, color, text, and materials.

5. Although Mariah Boyle’s work is based on visiting specific sites to observe details in the landscapes, she notes that rather than go outside to draw from observation, sometimes her first instinct is to draw from images found online. Do you think it makes a difference as a viewer what the artist uses as their source material? Is technology changing your interaction with the natural world?

6. Laura Ahola-Young is responding to the symptoms of our current climate crisis by visually capturing the science of environmental issues through meticulous patterns and labored marks. Spend some time studying one of Ahola-Young’s pieces and describe or write about what you see.