

# STREAMING

Organized by Melissa Staiger & Mike Childs

Julie Torres, Melissa Staiger, Sharmistha Ray, Ben Pritchard, Rafael Melendez, Keisha Prioleau-Martin, Deanna Lee, Mike Childs



---

## **Stand 4 Gallery**

June 4 – July 10, 2021

Opening Reception, Friday, June 4 (7–9PM)

Saturdays from 12-3 and by appointment

414 78th St, Brooklyn, NY 11209

---

### **“Streaming” - Artists streams of consciousness**

In March 2020 the New York art world shut down and went online for exhibition opportunities. Like many, artist Mike Childs was furloughed from his job, and stayed at home drawing as well as supporting his 6th grade son.

Mike reached out to fellow artist and curator Melissa Staiger to see if she was interested in combining their skills to create an online group of artists who worked on paper.

The collective identity of this group was envisioned as eight individuals who reflect the creative New York community and exhibit a compulsive nature towards the making of images.

Mike referred to these image makers as producing work via a stream of consciousness in the modernist literary tradition. In referencing this type of creative approach, Melissa immediately seized on the word to title their project *Streaming*, referring both to a creative thought process and the online reality of contemporary artistic existence.

### **From virtual beginnings to a physical exhibition at Stand 4 Gallery**

The focus of the effort would be to connect a group of previously unconnected artists via a website and as well as an Instagram exhibition launched by the members of the group themselves.

The original intention was in essence to respond to the isolation and separation experienced during the Covid shutdown by creating *Streaming*.

On June 4th, the group will now step out of the online world to exhibit in physical gallery space. Artist run Stand 4 Gallery is hosting the group exhibition opening June 4th - July 10th of 2021.

This exhibition will follow the original lineup of individuals and has encouraged the members to choose their own bodies of work to exhibit.

Follow the lead up to the show at the Instagram account [@streamingartwork](https://www.instagram.com/streamingartwork). It will chronicle some of the newest works and activities of the group.

**“Unable to stop” - participating artists produce a constant stream of work**

Their work is boiled down, strong and intense. This seems at times to be going against contemporary art with its penchant for largeness equated with importance. The artists represented in this group show works on an intimate scale, not as a plan for larger projects, but as a complete idea in and of itself.

Artists show a kind of manic drive. An “unable to stop” stream of work that flows from them, naturally and compulsively as cataloged on their social media presence. Image making for them seems as natural as taking a breath.

Color in this group show, either polychromatic or monochromatic, stems from a historically emotive reference. Many of the works are often referring to this history of expressionism.

There is an emphasis also to unlock the contemporary expressive possibilities of color, maybe even as a response to the current struggles in their lives.

Perhaps color works like music here, where the artist uses it as a medium to channel their varied experiences of social unrest, conflicts, tragedies, self-care and/or peaceful balance.

The participants pay great attention to the actual application of paint onto paper, sometimes via collage. An exhibition poster designed by group member Rafael Melendez will be in printed form at the exhibition itself.

There is a heightened attentiveness and dedication to the specific nature of their chosen medium and the hand that applies it. All have that same dedication to the practice of painting imagery as an activity both current and meaningful.

---

**Julie Torres** is an artist who created over 100 vibrant abstract acrylic paintings on envelopes during lockdown, posting them nearly every day on social media. She describes her process during Covid: “This daily ritual gave me a sense of purpose. It saved me... a way of dealing with the world during dark times”. In a recent interview with the Arcade Project Curatorial during the ‘Gay Guerrilla’ exhibit she describes her personal vision of her colorfully concrete paintings as “taking up space in not expected places”. Julie lives in Hudson NY and co-directs Labspace with her partner Ellen Letcher, an artist-run gallery in Hillsdale NY.

[@julieatorres](https://www.instagram.com/julieatorres), <http://julietorres.weebly.com>

---

**Melissa Staiger** is a Brooklyn artist and curator who delves into natural phenomenon as inspiration for her work. About her color field/hard edge paintings and collages she states: “I stack thick layers of paint to produce marks that resemble a flexible spine and rib cage”, referencing the human body. In her work seen here titled “Rooting Series”, composition and color come from having a defined core image of the broad arc of a rainbow conveying symbol of awe. Her studio is based in Brooklyn, NY and teaches studio art at Pratt Institute and the 92Y.

[@melissastaiger](https://www.instagram.com/melissastaiger), <http://melissastaiger.com>

---

**Sharmistha Ray** is exhibiting work they describe as conceptual works on paper. This series of small drawings are made with colored pens, markers, stickers and washi tape on archival paper. “I adapt modes of automatic writing and schematic models to build intuitive geometries... in a process I call ‘performative South Asian queer-feminist emotional-intellectual labor’”. Their intimate scaled visually rich works demonstrate the artist's intensity of concentration. They use forms reflecting Hindu and Buddhist yantras and mandalas in what they view as ‘spirit maps’ influenced by queer visualities. Sharmistha Ray is an artist, writer, and educator based in Brooklyn.

[@sharmistharay](https://www.instagram.com/sharmistharay), <http://sharmistharay.com/>

---

**Ben Pritchard** is a Brooklyn based painter from Detroit who is exhibiting his watercolors on paper. As he posts these works on Instagram in a steady stream of creative outpouring, one is immediately aware - even on social media - of the quiet power and the stark and often dark beauty of his images. The artist commented in a 2019 interview with 'Two Coats of Paint' that his painting is "a repository for personal feelings and thoughts". He states about the work shown here: "I've been working with paper over the past few months, with a simple principle: exploring it until the barrier between myself and the world disappears". Ben works at his studio in Brooklyn NY.

[@bencpritchard](https://benpritchard.studio), <https://benpritchard.studio>

---

**Keisha Prioleau-Martin** is exhibiting works from her series "Head Over Handlebars". Keisha's images are depicting the body and its movement. Often her subjects are caught joyously defying gravity. About her current work she comments: "Lately, the feeling of floating through the air has resurfaced in my paintings. Floating is peaceful, weightless and yet it is falling". Referencing the experience of dance was central to her two-person show "Footloose" with David Humphrey at Ortega y Gasset Projects in 2019. Keisha studied painting at SUNY Purchase in 2017 and lives in Queens NY.

[@keishaprioleaumartin](https://keishaprioleaumartin.cargo.site), <https://keishaprioleaumartin.cargo.site>

---

**Rafael Melendez** works primarily on paper, combining watercolor and often a fluid like acrylic paint. Following Rafael on Instagram can be a near overwhelming experience with his staggering amount of creative output. He operates within a razor-like focus in his practice. "The paintings I'm presenting consist of imagery which questions the commercialization of culture as I understand it today", he states. One realizes that there are a lot of thoughts and observations of contemporary society fueling his imagery. He was born in Fresno CA, but now lives and works in London England.

[@purrfectly](http://www.rafaelmelendez.com), <http://www.rafaelmelendez.com>

---

**Deanna Lee** is presenting a series of drawings from the "Dawn, River, Sea" (2020) series that are based on two residency experiences. They encompass the nocturnal atmosphere and sonic environments of a southern Mexican river as well as experiences of the northern Atlantic coast. Deanna's drawings often bring to mind the micro color shifts in a dawn sky far away. She describes her practice during this difficult time in a recent 'Art Spiel' interview as "the act of making marks on a surface with my hands is therapeutic... calming and positive". The exhibited works layer central dark areas made with an ink wash on top of subtle atmospheric color fields, reflecting the growth and transformation of nature. Deanna lives and works in Brooklyn NY.

[@deannalee](https://www.deannalee.net), <https://www.deannalee.net>

---

**Mike Childs** is an artist living and working in the Bronx NY. Growing up in the city of Toronto gave him an early love of observing and drawing architectural growth and demolition in an urban environment. This city energy he refers to as 'urban entropy' is depicted in this series titled "The Traps". The drawings, produced at night, use a homemade walnut ink from a Black Walnut tree, picked in North Bronx's Pelham Bay Park. Added to this rich brownish walnut ink was the dense blackness of India ink, which he also views as an ancient pigment in art history. The artist feels that using these old materials helps the images tap into older parts of his own and historic psychology. Mike emigrated from Canada to the United States to attend Florida State University, before moving to New York in 1995.

[@mikeartchilds](https://www.mikechildsstudio.com), <https://www.mikechildsstudio.com>

---