

***Shine Light on an Owl's Face* curated by Katherine Sherwood**
Featuring works by Joseph Alef, Susan Janow, Tony Pedemonte, Aurie Ramirez and Ron Veasey
14 May – 2 July 2022
Opening Reception: Saturday, May 14, 3:00 – 7:00pm

In conjunction with her exhibition, *Fierce Women and Their Flowers*, Katherine Sherwood presents *Shine Light on an Owl's Face* featuring the work of Joseph Alef, Susan Janow, Tony Pedemonte, Aurie Ramirez, and Ron Veasey. These artists all work with Creative Growth, a non-profit organization in Oakland that facilitates the inclusion of artists with developmental disabilities in contemporary art by providing a professional studio environment and gallery representation. The nationally recognized artists that are part of their creative community are uniquely situated to speak to the experience of people with developmental and cognitive disabilities.

Joseph Alef makes active paintings that radiate with energy. Blending a broad spectrum of colors with gestural and drip elements, he has created his own expressive visual language. Often beginning with delicate fields of color, Alef then integrates linear and distinct graphic elements that create sculptural effects.

Susan Janow approaches her drawings with a methodical and meditative focus. Beginning with an open hand-drawn grid, she meticulously fills in each shape with fine lines that resemble faintly moving curtains. This process of intensive crosshatching is precise and introspective, as Janow works with unbroken focus. She is also widely recognized for her video work which is in the permanent collection at the Brooklyn Museum.

Tony Pedemonte constructs armatures of wood and recycled materials that he wraps in layers of yarn and thread until the structure is nearly concealed. Pedemonte works with high energy and intention - following his own intuition and never pausing to consider his next move. His work is an athletic or performative feat, grounded by the use of his body as a tool for expression.

Aurie Ramirez's sophisticated and delicately rendered watercolor and ink compositions create a fantasy world of 18th century dandyism, neo-Victorian decorum, psychedelia, glam rock sex, and anthropomorphic food. With imagery ranging from saccharine landscapes with smiling suns to punk fetishism and hardcore erotica, Ramirez explores sexuality, fashion, violence, and forbidden foods.

Ron Veasey's fundamental interest is the human form as a vehicle for color and line. Whether a sloping neck or a glancing eye, his carefully considered portraits are completed methodically and with great intention. The result is an image that is a distillation of color and form, where the gaze of the portrait becomes the fundamental subject of the work, unflinching in its connection with the viewer.

Sherwood taught the course *Art, Medicine, and Disability* while Professor of Painting at the UC Berkeley Department of Art Practice and played an important role in the university's Disability Studies program. A longtime admirer and supporter of Creative Growth, she is currently serving on their Board of Directors.