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CULTIVATE EXHIBITION

We ARE Here: More Than Just a Number

Grand Rapids, MI, April 7 - Cultivate is proud to present, *We ARE Here: More Than Just a Number*, an exhibition featuring artists Richard Barnett, Boisali Biswas, W.S. Cranmore, Elaine Dalcher, Maureen Janson Heintz, Judith Hopkins, Madeline Kaczmarczyk, Leon Lou, Estelle Roberge, Delores Slowinski, and Lynn Stephenson. This exhibition will showcase a variety of mediums including sculpture, painting, textiles, photography, and digital collage. It will run from April 7th - May 24th, 2023 with an opening reception on April 7th from 5pm - 9pm.

When artists emerge from learning institutions and are allowed to be immersed in their art for a few more exciting and productive years before they inevitably are forced to stumble into a career.

Decades stack up as they pass their 30s and 40s, with time in the studio consumed by work, family, friends, and other seemingly endless obligations. Gallery exhibitions - when they are able to visit - are full of beautiful pieces by people who hearken back to a younger version of themselves.

Finally acknowledging that ageism is built into the systems of galleries and museums, evident by the opportunities that forgo their experience and work in favor of younger artists. There is no annual list of "50 over 50" artists to watch. Some galleries unabashedly seek artists under 35 with seemingly no self-awareness of the blatant discrimination. Older artists are forced into a difficult situation. Do they edit their portfolio to remove the shows that their past selves celebrated as accomplishments in order to seem younger than they are? Do they lie about their age in hopes for better opportunities?

During their 50s, many artists re-emerge from a heads-down focus of family and career to take stock in themselves thus far. Some have held onto art making all along. Some realign their lives so they can rediscover themselves and their studios once more.

Beyond Cultivate's exhibition, the artist's works have been exhibited in the American Artist Professional League annual exhibit, the Muskegon Museum of Art, the UICA, Crooked Tree Arts Center, the University of Notre Dame, California Institute of the Arts, the Scarab Club, Idaho State University, the Northwest Michigan Regional Juried Exhibition, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and can be found in collections such as Elvis Costello, and the Hyatt Regency World Headquarters.



Cultivate is an art organization located in Grand Rapids, MI, that offers a contemporary art gallery, studio-based arts education for ages 3 - adult, and an artist resource center. Their team is composed of 40+ professional artists, established curators, certified and trained teachers, and industry experts.

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If you would like more information about Cultivate or the opening reception please contact Mallory Shotwell at hello@cultivategrandrapids.org