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## **Cultivate Presents "Bridge Work": An Exhibition Empowering Emerging Artists**

GRAND RAPIDS, MI — April 10, 2024 — Cultivate, an artist-run arts organization dedicated to contemporary art and education, proudly presents "Bridge Work," a distinctive exhibition spearheaded by Jason S. Yi and Leah Kolb. This pivotal showcase, running from April 12 through May 31, aims to bridge the gap for recent art school graduates transitioning into the professional art world. "Bridge Work" is in partnership with Plum Blossom Initiative (Milwaukee), Var Gallery (Milwaukee), Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design (Milwaukee), University of Wisconsin-Madison (Madison), University of Wisconsin (Oshkosh), Arts and Literature Laboratory (Madison), Kendall College of Art and Design (Grand Rapids), and Cultivate (Grand Rapids).

This program is made possible through the support of the Michigan Arts & Culture Council and Lowell Arts, supporting this program in Grand Rapids. "Bridge Work" is a comprehensive nine-month program combining practical studio engagement with academic insight, culminating in a group exhibition that presents new works by selected artists alongside their peers from the region.

**2024's Bridge Work Exhibition:** Showcasing the Innovations of Margaret Griffin, Elizabeth Sheeler, Julia Bradfish, Hannah Stevenson, and Ellie Garry, this exhibition offers a glimpse into the future of contemporary art through the lens of emerging artists. Each artist brings a unique perspective, exploring themes ranging from the interplay of the body and industry to the abstraction of personal and universal struggles through visual metaphors.

- **Margaret Griffin**, a Milwaukee-based sculptor, delves into themes of the body and industry, inspired by the Post-Minimalism movement. Her participation in notable programs and exhibitions across the Midwest underscores her emerging voice in the contemporary art scene.

- **Ellie Garry**, originating from Rapid City, South Dakota, and now based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, captivates with works that transform the beauty of our world into a realm of wonder, addressing personal struggles through abstract forms.

- **Elizabeth Sheeler**, from Madison, Wisconsin, employs her interdisciplinary approach to challenge perceptions of identity, control, and empathy, crafting environments that prompt introspection and a deeper understanding of oneself and the surrounding world.

- **Hannah Stevenson**, a recent graduate from Kendall College of Art and Design, combines painting and fibers to weave narratives around womanhood, female sexuality, and objectification, asserting her place within the contemporary art world.

- **Julia Bradfish**, also based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, showcases her expertise in painting and drawing, having contributed significantly to the local art scene through curated exhibitions and her participation in artist development programs.

The "Bridge Work" exhibition not only highlights the exceptional talent of its participants but also the importance of mentorship and support within the art community. Cultivate, alongside its partners, continues to pave the way for emerging artists, fostering a vibrant ecosystem where creativity and professional growth can flourish.

The exhibition is open to the public at Cultivate's contemporary art gallery in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Visitors are invited to witness the convergence of fresh perspectives and innovative expressions that define the future of contemporary art.

**About Cultivate:**

Cultivate is an artist-run arts organization in Grand Rapids, Michigan, offering a contemporary art gallery, a fine art education program, and an artist resource center. It is dedicated to supporting artists at various stages of their careers, fostering a dynamic and inclusive art community.

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