



Metropolitan State University of Denver



## Center for Visual Art Presents *Collectivism*

DENVER, COLORADO – [Collectivism](#), opening August 1 at the [Center for Visual Art, MSU Denver](#) invites viewers to explore how working in collectives provides artists an outlet for expression that is different from their individual practice, in particular in areas of activism and humor, and additionally in how those modes of practice overlap. The exhibition features the work of 13 local, international and historic artist collectives including: Ant Farm, Distill Collective, DMB Collective, KUT, Ladies Fancywork Society, Secret Love Collective, Shattered Moon Alliance, subRosa, Tea Project, TVTV, Videofreex, The Women's Art League and Women's Video News Service.

"CVA is committed to presenting compelling contemporary exhibitions that spark dialogue and we are pleased to present work created through collective action that so thoughtfully engages with current issues our visitors are eager to discuss including gender, identity, media, privacy, technology and gentrification" says Cecily Cullen, Director and Curator of CVA. "It is our hope that the teamwork and collaboration inherent in this

exhibition and the collective examination of contemporary issues will inspire our community to come together in conversation."

*Collectivism* includes the work of several local artists collectives including Ladies Fancywork Society, Secret Love Collective and the Women's Art League showcasing the dynamic creativity and diversity of Colorado's flourishing art scene.

Boulder-based [Women's Art League](#) will exhibit "vagina china" – their large-scale community art project that explores issues related to sex trafficking, connecting this alarming global reality with a centuries older global trade in Asian ceramics.

[Ladies Fancywork Society](#) and [Secret Love Collective](#), both based in Denver, will each exhibit new work. Ladies Fancywork Society will unfurl *Our Lady*, a large scale crocheted sculptural intervention while the Secret Love Collective will install an alternative world onsite at CVA replete with an interactive costume closet where visitors can explore different identities and ways of being.

Secret Love Collective will also present a variety of unique events throughout the run of the exhibition including the [Parade of Selves](#) and the [In Bed By Ten dance party](#). DJed by member DJ L.A. Zwicky on August 2. The group will also host an interactive, art making game show, [Collect This!](#), on October 10 where participants will collect seemingly random elements to make art. Costumes, puppets and potentially artful chaos to ensue.

Other events include an artist talk and performance by the noted cyberfeminist artist collective [subRosa](#). Members Hyla Willis and Faith Wilding will [join guests in conversation](#) about their practice on September 5. On September 6, members of [subRosa will present a new performance](#), *Gentrification U*, that explores the intersections of the higher education industry with housing gentrification, the gig economy, and the new forms of digitizing and monetizing of life and death. All events are free to attend.

Other highlights include the [Tea Project](#) whose work shares the voices and experiences of men in Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp highlighting the human rights violations of the Global War on Terror. Also included are [KUT](#), an anonymous group of Latvian filmmakers, musicians, artists, politicians

and cats and [Shattered Moon Alliance](#), a collaborative duo that explores sci-fi world-building that re-centers feminist perspectives.

Additionally, interactive art making stations throughout the gallery will allow visitors to create their own art and correspond directly with the collectives themselves.

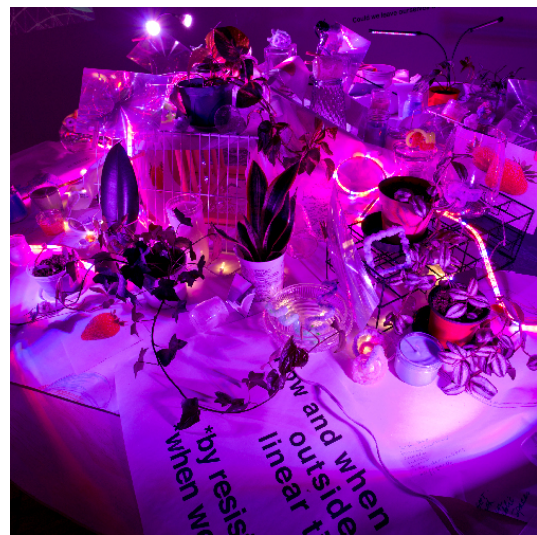
“We feel it is important to provide fun and meaningful opportunities for visitors to not only engage with the exhibition but to also directly interact with the artists,” says Cullen. “By adding these participatory elements within the exhibition, we hope visitors will be inspired to express what is personally meaningful to them and share issues that are important in their communities.”

*Collectivism* also features the work of two MSU Denver Art Department faculty members, Associate Professor of Art and *Collectivism* co-curator Tsehai Johnson and Associate Professor of Art Michael Bernhardt. With [Distill Collective](#), Johnson departs from her ceramics practice to create conversational and collaborative drawings through the mail. Bernhardt, of [DMB Collective](#), is one of the three creators of the album *War On Christmas* which pokes fun at the daily stream of data from the world of current events in politics, as well as the self-absorbed nature of social media and beyond.

MSU Denver Art Department Chair, Associate Professor Art History, Theory and Criticism and *Collectivism* co-curator Deanne Pytlinski, who has written extensively on 1960’s feminist video art and counterculture, rounds out the exhibition with her selection of videos from prominent, historical experiemental and feminist film collectives including [Ant Farm](#), [Videofreex](#), [TVTV](#) and Women’s Video News Service.

[Click for artist bios + events](#)





Images: Clockwise from top - Secret Love Collective, Shattered Moon Alliance, subRosa, Ladies

*Collectivism* opens August 1 and continues through October 19, 2019. There will be an opening celebration on August 1 from 6-8 pm. *Collectivism* is organized by the Center for Visual Art and is curated by Cecily Cullen, Director and Curator of CVA, Tsehai Johnson, Associate Professor of Art, MSU Denver and Deanne Pytlinski, Chair, MSU Denver Department of Art and Associate Professor of Art History, Theory and Criticism.

The Center for Visual Art is located at 965 Santa Fe Drive in Denver, Colorado. CVA is open 5 days a week and admission is free. For gallery hours, full event listings and visitor information, please visit: [www.msudenver.edu/cva](http://www.msudenver.edu/cva).

---

**Media Contact:**

Heather Link-Bergman, CVA Communications Manager

[hlink@msudenver.edu](mailto:hlink@msudenver.edu) • 303.961.8547 (office) • 203.240.1806 (mobile)

Additional images available on request.

---

---