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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Center for Visual Art Presents
I Do / We Do / You Do
May 18 – August 5, 2023

DENVER, COLORADO – The phrase “I do, we do, you do” refers to a scaffolded and interactive method of teaching art. With this method, students move from being instructed, to working collaboratively, and then to working independently. In the *I Do / We Do / You Do* exhibition, art educators reflect on the intersections of teaching and art making practices. This exhibition includes invited national artists, a collaboration among an art educator research group, and a juried selection of Colorado art teachers. Works reflect the challenges particular to teaching art and ask viewers to listen to the creative problem solving that addresses these challenges.

I Do features invited artists:

Jorge Lucero
Jen Delos Reyes
Harrell Fletcher and Lisa Jarrett of KSMoCA

How does an art educator maintain a contemporary art practice while simultaneously teaching and participating in dialogue about the art education process? Jorge Lucero recorded 102 “permissions” that he has pulled from other artists and creatives as concepts to use in his own art making practice. His work titled *Conceptualist Permissions for Teacher Posture* explores the idea that teaching is an art practice and what happens in a classroom is material for creating art. The work of Jen Delos Reyes supports this concept as the three photographs on display, titled *After Mondrian, Blow, and Totem*, were created in collaboration with her students as a means to address a constant disruption to her teaching practice in the form of cell phones. Harrell Fletcher and Lisa Jarrett founded Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School Museum of Contemporary Art (KSMoCA) to unite artmaking, art exhibition, and teaching within classrooms. KSMoCA is the merging of a museum of modern art with an elementary school, radically reimagining the way art is taught, created, and experienced across generations.

We Do features a collaborative artwork by art educators participating in Theory Loves Practice (TLP), an MSU Denver sponsored research group. TLP was created out of a need for community

and support for art teachers working in primary, intermediate, and secondary schools. Most often, art teachers at these levels are the only ones of their kind within a school, facing unique situations and challenges without the support of similarly situated colleagues. TLP provides teachers with a way to share their classroom challenges and successes, learn from each other's experiences, and experiment with new methods. Current TLP participants have collaborated on an installation that examines what is happening in their classrooms right now. The work provides viewers with a snapshot of current issues and a critical analysis of the education system in the hope of creating conversation around the complex situation of education.

You Do celebrates the work of current and retired Colorado art educators (in K-12 and higher education) in a juried selection of work. The jurors for this group of artists are Cecily Cullen, CVA Director & Curator, Pablo Rivera, Visual Arts Teacher at Denver's South High School, and Katie Taft, CVA Education Manager. Artists were asked to create work addressing their classroom experiences. The thirty-four artists invited to participate in the exhibition were selected based on the conceptual aspects of their work with a specific focus on works that invite conversation about unique topics.

Exhibition Events

Opening Reception

Thursday, May 18

Member Preview: 5:30-6pm

Public Reception: 6-8pm

Culture Club

June 21, 6pm

Guided artmaking workshop open to all. Registration required.

A complete list of events with registration and connection links will be announced on CVA's website and through CVA's e-newsletter, www.msudenver.edu/cva

About CVA

Center for Visual Art is the off-campus contemporary art center for Metropolitan State University of Denver. CVA provides a year-round schedule of bold, contemporary exhibitions of both local significance and international reach, educational programming open to the community and immersive workforce development for students interested in creative fields. CVA's mission is to provide access to diverse, high-quality art experiences that advance the global urban dialogue. The Center for Visual Art is free and open to all.

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