

Center for Visual Art Presents

Dance of Resistance

August 15 - October 25, 2025

DENVER, COLORADO— The exhibition features LGBTQ+ artists who voice the stories of their communities through figural works of art. Approaching their work from unique viewpoints, they employ varied media to present themes from lived experience and imagined futures. The artists unite in using their art as a means of activism, visually conveying issues important to themselves and their communities. They amplify silenced voices, expose myths, and promote a dialogue that invites reflection on the human experience, illuminating the power of art to inspire change and foster understanding in our diverse world. These figural depictions place a queer bodily presence firmly in the spotlight, unapologetically claiming their power.

With a view toward the future, Bahamian-American artist April Bey engages a multidisciplinary practice to create an empowered world known as *Atlantica*. Rich with texture and exuberant color, Bey's gallery-wide installations portray inhabitants of this future world full of magic and possibility, where oppression does not exist and all are free to live their authentic selves. In a similar vein, Amaryllis R. Flowers realizes fantastical, hyper-feminine worlds where the future is a utopia pulled from traumas of past and present experiences. The artist mines memories from her upbringing in the United States as a Queer woman from Puerto Rico, altering the historical devaluation of black and brown women into their veneration. Meanwhile, Juliana Huxtable reinvents her own body through multi-disciplinary works that subvert classical portraiture in an exploration of the complexities within her race, gender, and queer identities.

Working from lived experience and community histories, Hagudeza Rullán-Fantauzzi artfully layers choreography, film, and digital media to explore sexual and gender identity. As an Afro-Boricua Trans woman, Rullán-Fantauzzi's work creates space for the telling of stories not heard outside of their community, offering representation and the opportunity for dialog and connection. Looking further back through history, Ria Brodell's *Butch Heroes* series reinvents the Catholic church's holy cards with depictions of historical figures who were essentially women that lived as men, or in some way not

as the gender they were assigned at birth. The choice of illustrating these people and their centuries-old stories through holy cards serves to provide the representation of inspirational people the artist wishes they'd had when growing up, while also recognizing and calling attention to the persecution of these individuals by the church and society.

Rooted in the present, Amy Reidel and Preetika Rajgariah both create colorful portraits of themselves and the people closest to them. While Reidel's paintings explore her gender and sexual identity interspersed with the complexities of motherhood, Rajgariah's work embodies her immigrant and queer identities, incorporating yoga mats and *sari* fabric to address her cultural identity. The saturated photographs of Laurence Philomène give viewers real-time access to a community few people experience first-hand, offering connection and forging opportunities for empathy. Encapsulating the past, present and future in her wondrously imagined sculptures, vanessa german works to heal her community and transform their existence. Imbued with love and healing energy, german's sculptural figures convey strength and self-love, creating a sense of empowerment for those whom they portray.

Together, these diverse and compelling artists demonstrate the transformative power of art to challenge perceptions, celebrate identities, and envision a more inclusive future. By amplifying marginalized voices and reimagining histories, the artists not only foster understanding and empathy but also inspire collective resilience and hope. This exhibition underscores the vital role of creative expression in shaping societal change, reminding us that through art, we can forge pathways toward greater acceptance, healing, and empowerment for all communities.

Featured artists:

April Bey, Ria Brodell, Amaryllis R. Flowers, vanessa german, Juliana Huxtable, Laurence Philomène, Preetika Rajgariah, Amy Reidel, and Hagudeza Rullán-Fantauzzi.

Dance of Resistance was curated by Cecily Cullen and Jenna Miles. The exhibition will be on view August 15 – October 25, 2025 at Center for Visual Art, MSU Denver.