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ATHENAEUM ART CENTER NEWS

AAC EXHIBITIONS FEATURE LOCAL ARTISTS FROM "PRINTMAKERS AGAINST RACISM" AND MORGAN MILLER III



Print by Katie Ruiz, a linocut teacher at the Athenaeum's School of the Arts, used in the Printmakers Against Racism initiative, and Morgan Miller's drawing, *Enclosed Space*, on view at the AAC

A provocative exhibition focusing on two timely topics is now on view in the main gallery of the Athenaeum Art Center (AAC) in Logan Heights. Entitled **2020 So Far: Prints and Drawings** and curated by Sibyl Rubottom and Desirée Aspiras, the exhibition features artists involved in the Printmakers Against Racism initiative and drawings by Print Studio affiliate and teacher Morgan Miller III. The work will be on view by appointment at the AAC through December 31, 2020.

Sibyl Rubottom is Artist in Residence at the Athenaeum, Manager of the Print Studio at AAC, and a teacher at the Athenaeum's School of the Arts. Desirée Aspiras, a therapist, educator and printmaker, was inspired by the Bakers Against Racism initiative and decided to launch a similar effort selling artwork online instead of baked

goods to raise funds for this cause. "With Printmakers Against Racism we can use our artmaking as a tool for change," she remarked. That sale has ended for now. Aspiras and Rubottom curated some works from the sale and then organized this current exhibition to showcase artwork by our local artists.

Added to the mix are Morgan Miller III's drawings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. When the AAC Print Studio closed in March, Miller observed:

The extra time at home gave me the opportunity to draw. The subject matter for my drawings became increasingly clear to me as I illustrated aspects of the pandemic. COVID-19 exposed and exacerbated all the underlying social inequities in the systems that we as a society live with. As well as social commentary, these illustrations document the historic time we are living in.

His drawings are included in the first of a series of books of sketches on the pandemic that Miller has produced. Entitled **2020 COVID-19 Self-isolation**, the book includes a handsewn binding and letterpressed cover.

COVID-19 is omnipresent throughout the book as it is in contemporary life. Printed in an edition of 50, Miller's book is sold out but can be viewed in the Athenaeum Artists' Books Collection. This edition is "Book Number One, March-May," so we

expect more volumes soon; Book Number Two will be released shortly.

For further information or to book an appointment, please call the AAC at 619-269-1981 or email olopex@jathenaeum.org.

EXCITING OPPORTUNITY AT AAC FOR WOMEN IN THE LOGAN HEIGHTS COMMUNITY ANNOUNCED

Under the leadership of Omar Lopex, bilingual manager of the AAC, the Athenaeum has launched a new outreach program in Logan Heights.

Titled Open Art Studio for Women, the program will provide studio space, art supplies, guidance, and resources to female residents from the community. Free for all participants, art supplies will be provided. Light snacks and refreshments are included, and all COVID-19 safety protocols will be observed and implemented. All ages and levels are welcome. The studio space is located in the AAC at 1955 Julian Avenue, San Diego 92113.

Interested participants can call or email to schedule time in the studio. The schedule is flexible to accommodate the needs of the community during this challenging time. For more information or to book an appointment, please call 619-269-1981 or email olopex@jathenaeum.org.

Athenaeum Art Center

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