

MONTALVO ARTS CENTER PRESENTS

# lone some

ORIGINAL WORKS BY LOCAL AND NATIONAL ARTISTS  
EXHIBITED IN PUBLIC SITES THROUGHOUT THE BAY AREA

To be viewed June 1 through July 31, 2020



SARATOGA, CA (10 June 2020) —Throughout June and July, **Montalvo Arts Center** will present original artworks around the Bay Area for viewing on billboards and bus shelters, in a new public exhibition entitled *lone some*. In association with its 2019-2020 programming initiative, *SOCIAL: Rethinking Loneliness Together*, Montalvo will transform traditional advertising and commerce medium spaces into catalysts for conversation and connection. Seeking to inspire and provoke questions about what it means to experience loneliness, local and national artists and poets were commissioned to create works for presentation on billboards and bus shelters in the East Bay, San Francisco, and the South Bay. *lone some* will be on display **June 1 – July 31, 2020**. Artworks will be featured on billboards located in Berkeley, Oakland, San Francisco, and East San Jose, and on bus shelters throughout the Peninsula from San Bruno to Millbrae, Burlingame, San Mateo, Belmont, San Carlos, Redwood City, Menlo Park, East

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Palo Alto, and Santa Clara. More information, including a detailed map of where the works can be seen, is available at [montalvoarts.org](http://montalvoarts.org).

Featured on 25 independent public sites all around the Bay Area, including Montalvo’s public park, and the entry foyer (visible from the street) of the San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles, *lone some* will include works by Lucas Artists Fellow Chloë Bass, Modesto Covarrubias, Leena Joshi, Jane Chang Mi, Susan O’Malley (1976-2015), and Alyson Provox. Each artist created work considering the theme of isolation and loneliness in the ever-changing landscape of our urban areas.

Last fall Montalvo Arts Center launched the year-long program *SOCIAL: Rethinking Loneliness Together*, created specifically to confront the growing worldwide epidemic of loneliness. “At a time when people are more connected than ever through social media, loneliness had emerged as a major global public health crisis,” says Executive Director Angela McConnell. In 2017, the US Surgeon General, Vice Admiral Vivek H. Murthy, called loneliness the “most common pathology” he encountered in all his years of medical practice. In 2018, the UK appointed a “minister for loneliness” to address social and health issues caused by social isolation. In Japan, robots designed to provide companionship are emerging to combat rising loneliness in a country where 40% of its citizens will live alone by 2040. Through workshops, walks, screenings, exhibitions, and new artist commissions on Montalvo’s grounds and beyond, guests were invited to engage with artists and explore solitude while discovering new (and old) ways that authentic connections can be built in the digital world.

Little did Montalvo realize how profoundly this program would resonate when all of humanity faced the impact of forced isolation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As the world adapts to the new norms of social distancing, the works of *lone some* have taken on even more widespread relevance. Says Montalvo’s Director, Lucas Artists Program, Kelly Sicat, “Our current situation of shelter in place and social distancing has created an entirely new level of urgency to the topic of loneliness, which has now become relevant to millions more people. These works will be viewed by individuals driving in the safety of their cars, taking socially-distanced walks, or commuting by bus along the peninsula. We hope *lone some* will not only provoke curiosity, but

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also spark conversation and connection.” Many of these public works will include a phone line for viewers to reach out and connect more closely with the artists, some of which may allow for messages in response to their pieces.

*lone some* would not have been possible without the generous support of Wanda Kownacki, or the inspiration and creative support of the curatorial collaborative *Vignettes* (Serrah Russell and Sierra Stinson) and their public art series, *a lone*. This exhibition is here to remind the isolated viewer – we are all alone together.

### About the artists

**Chloë Bass** is a multiform conceptual artist working in performance, situation, conversation, publication, and installation. Bass has held numerous fellowships and residencies, most recently as a 2020-2022 Lucas Artists Fellow at Montalvo and 2019 Arts Matters Grantee. Her projects have appeared nationally and internationally, including recent exhibits at The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York; Kunsthalle Wilhelmshave in Wilhelmshaven, Germany; BAK basis voor actuele kunst in Utrecht, Netherlands; and The Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art in Winston-Salem, North Carolina; among many others. Bass’ short-form writing has been published on *Hyperallergic*, *Arts Black*, and *Walker Reader*. Her monograph was published by The Operating System in 2018 and she also has a chapbook, *#sky #nofilter*, forthcoming from DoubleCross Press. Bass is an Assistant Professor of Arts at Queens College, City University New York, where she co-runs Social Practice Queens with Gregory Sholette.

*Past work by Chloë Bass:*



*I want us to look more closely*, 2018. Custom lettering on movie marquee.

Photo credit: Kalaija Mallery

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**Modesto Covarrubias** is a solo and collaborative artist whose work investigates the physical, psychological, and emotional connection to environments. His interdisciplinary practice employs a broad range of media including drawing, photography, installation, printmaking, textiles, and performance. He is an adjunct professor at California College of the Arts (CCA) in San Francisco. His practice includes RoCoCo, an ongoing collaboration with fellow CCA Associate Professor KC Rosenberg. Covarrubias’ work has been included in exhibitions at the San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery; Galleria Civica in Modena, Italy; The Poor Farm in Little Wolf, Wisconsin; The Center for Contemporary Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico; the Children’s Museum of the Arts, New York; and at the Oakland International Airport. His work has been featured at Oakland Museum’s Gallery 555, Marin Museum of Contemporary Art, San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA), and in *Oakland Magazine* and *San Francisco Magazine*. A Bay Area native, Covarrubias lives in Berkeley and maintains a studio in Oakland, California.

*Past work by Modesto Covarrubias*



*Presence (Chair)*, 2011, from an ongoing photographic series of textile installations.

As an ocean engineer and artist, **Jane Chang Mi** assesses the post-colonial ocean environment through an interdisciplinary and research-based lens. She examines the narratives associated with the underwater landscape, considering the past, present, and future – mainly focusing on the occupation and militarization of the Pacific Ocean by the United States. Mi was the inaugural artist-in-residence at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, researching the pre-contact history of Pearl Harbor. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, most recently at Te Uru Waitakere Contemporary Gallery and ST PAUL St Gallery, both located in New Zealand. From being a scientist for the Arctic Circle Program to receiving a grant from the University of California Institute for Research in the Arts and being a fellow at the East West Center at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, the ocean has always played a large role in Mi’s life.

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She is currently based out of Honolulu and Los Angeles, where she teaches at Scripps College in Claremont, California.

*Past work by Jane Chang Mi:*

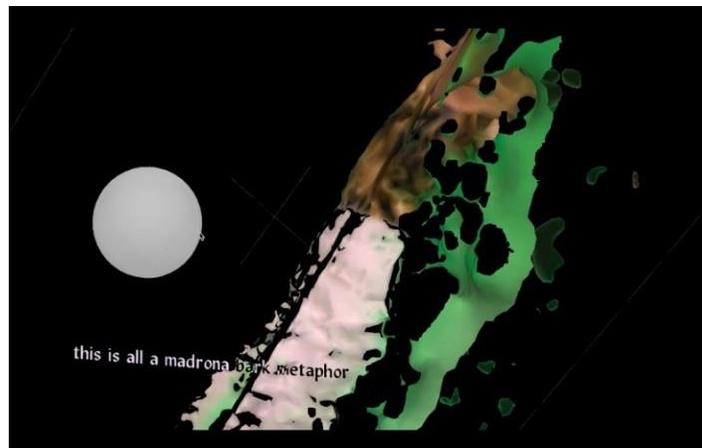


*The Spirit of Aloha - Atomize Racism Not the Pacific*, 2018. Offset print, endless copies.

Photograph by Ed Greevy

Born to South Asian immigrants, **Leena Joshi** (pronouns: they/them/theirs) is an emerging artist and writer currently based in Oakland, California. Their writing and art explores the relationship between the self and structures of gender, sexuality, labor, and livelihood through negotiations of text, image, music, performance, and installation. Joshi's art practice considers the lateral roots of affect, gender, labor, and desire within a transmedia practice of world building. They earned a Bachelor of Arts in Creative Writing from University of Washington Seattle and are projected to obtain a Master of Fine Arts in Art Practice from University of California, Berkeley in 2020.

*Past work by Leena Joshi*



*except in the ring with my demons*, 2019. Digital video still. Single-channel video.

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**Susan O’Malley** (1976-2015) was an artist and curator from the San Francisco Bay Area. From posters to pep talks, billboards to vending machines, her art uses simple and recognizable tools of engagement to connect people to one another. In her *Advice from My 80-Year-Old Self* project, she interviewed people of all ages and transformed their words into bold artwork that has been shared widely as a book, prints, and public murals. O’Malley’s artwork has been exhibited in public projects across the United States—including Montalvo Arts Center, Kala Art Institute, and Palo Alto Art Center in California; the Contemporary Art Museum in Houston; and the Parthenon Museum in Nashville—as well as in galleries and museums in the United Kingdom, Denmark, and Poland. Her installation *Finding Your Center* was recently featured at San Francisco’s Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, and her project *A Healing Walk* is permanently installed at Montalvo Arts Center in Saratoga, California.

*Past work by Susan O’Malley*



*A Healing Walk*, O’Malley’s permanent installation at Montalvo Arts Center in Saratoga, CA.  
Courtesy of Montalvo Arts Center

Born in Aptos California, **Alyson Provax** currently lives and works in Portland, Oregon. Letterpress and text are at the center of her practice, which extends into publications, public projects, objects, and animations. Provax has shown regionally at The Vestibule in Seattle, Washington; Wolff Gallery, Carnation Contemporary, and Upfor in Portland, Oregon; among many others and internationally at the Blueproject Foundation in Barcelona, Spain. Her work has been published in *Poetry Northwest*, *The Buckman Journal*, and *Eleven Eleven*, and her first book was published by Volumes Volumes in 2019. Provax has shown temporary public art installations in Portland in 2019 as “*something nameless*” and in Seattle in 2018 as part of *Vignettes + Gramma* project, “*a lone.*”

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*Past work by Alyson Provax*



*Bench (knowing)*, 2019. Bus bench, letterpress. As installed at SW Hunziker St near 72nd Ave Tigard.  
Photo: Shannon O'Connor

### **About Montalvo**

The **Sally and Don Lucas Artists Program (LAP)**, located on the grounds of Montalvo Arts Center in Saratoga, is a creative incubator and cultural producer dedicated to investing in artists and nurturing their development and growth. It supports artists from all creative disciplines and geographical locations to create and present new and experimental work and undertake critical investigations of contemporary issues.

**Montalvo Arts Center** is a donor-supported nonprofit institution whose mission is to engage the public in the creative process, acting as a catalyst for exploring the arts, unleashing creativity, and advancing different cultural perspectives. Located in Silicon Valley's Saratoga Hills, Montalvo occupies 175 stunning acres and is home to the Sally and Don Lucas Artists Program (LAP), the Carriage House Concert Series, free outdoor art installations for public viewing, miles of hiking trails, and a robust arts education program.

### **FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:**

**WHAT:** Throughout June and July, **Montalvo Arts Center** will present artworks around the Bay Area for viewing on billboards and bus shelters in a new public exhibition entitled *lone some*. In association with its 2019-2020 programming initiative, *SOCIAL: Rethinking Loneliness Together*, Montalvo will transform traditional advertising and commerce medium spaces into catalysts for conversation and connection. Seeking to inspire and provoke questions about what it means to

