

AC INSTITUTE

AC Institute
16 E 48th Street
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*"I tell you everything
And I hope that you won't tell on me."*
-Courtney Love

Is intimacy aided by full disclosure? What constitutes meaningful social exchange when the realm of digital representation is inundated by waves of us asking to be loved, consoled, and coached? The negative image of "oversharing" that remains simultaneously asserts and parodies an impulse to connect through shared vulnerability. You "tell on me," and I tell my friends, and they pick up their phones; the more reality meets with mediated manipulation, the less of it is left in reality. Feelings are frequent liars until they can be processed and molded into a constructed vulnerability that's conceived and controlled in softness.

Softer, Softest: Parts I, II, & III asks three artists to consider the evolving nature of intimacy and exchange. Over the course of the exhibition, Monika Uchiyama, Peter Fankhauser, and Julian Chams will take turns transforming the gallery into solo-project spaces for two week periods. All three artists are invited to incorporate or reference each other's work in their individual projects. Each of these will be punctuated by an opening reception and frame the following project until the exhibition closes. By entering into an exchange that strategically codifies what is too personal, too soft, or too queer, these three artists reposition the notion of vulnerability in closer proximity to control.

Peter Fankhauser: Opening September 11th

Peter Fankhauser's photo, video, and text-based work probes states of impermanence and loss by queering personal histories, popular culture, and interspecies kinships. He earned an MFA in Interdisciplinary Studio Practice at the City College of New York and has since taught at City College (New York), and the University of Nebraska (Omaha). His work has been exhibited at independent and alternative spaces nationally and abroad including Death By Audio (Brooklyn), Silent Barn (Brooklyn), AC Institute (New York City), and AA/LA (Los Angeles). He currently lives and works in Omaha, NE.

Julian Chams: Opening September 28th

Julian Chams is a visual from Colombia based in Brooklyn. Working in the space between the personal and the systematic, he creates assemblages of imagery that include both natural and manmade elements. Chams has had solo exhibitions at Wave Hill, Bronx; Splatterpool, Brooklyn; ARS Antiqua Galería, Barranquilla, Colombia; and Parallel Gallery, Kansas City, MO. His work has been featured in group shows at the Bronx Museum of the Arts, Bronx; XV Salón Regional de Artistas, Zona Caribe, Cartagena, Colombia; 50/50, Kansas City, MO; and the Consulate of Colombia in New York. In 2015 he was a Van Lier Visual Arts Fellow at Wave Hill in the Bronx. He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Kansas City Art Institute.

Monika Uchiyama: Opening October 12th

Monika Uchiyama is an artist working primarily in video. She is interested in personal narratives and investigating the ways in which coping strategies linked to physical, social, and generational trauma reveal themselves through storytelling. She received an MFA from the University of Pennsylvania, a BA from CUNY-City College, and attended the Yale Norfolk Summer School of Art.