



Cassidy Garbutt *Untitled (Ecology of the Studio I)*, 2018 (detail)

## *Unusual Behavior*

September 19-29, 2022  
Carolyn M. Wilson Gallery  
3801 USF Holly Dr.  
Tampa, FL 33620  
M-Th 11am-3pm

Cassidy Garbutt, Maria Theresa Barbist, Mason Dowling, and Tisha Benson met in 2013 while studying at the now shuttered San Francisco Art Institute. This exhibition of works made in the subsequent nine years explores the conversations their work continues to share in thought, material, and perception.

The work in this show is difficult to pin down with language. In trying to write about it, one suspects that this might in fact be appropriate. Most of the effects of sharing one's space and time with these works are perceived and felt *outside* of language, as apparitions of craft, intention, and chance. Even their most immediately recognizable elements - hinges, fruit, steel, leaves, chains, a seahorse - are transformed into something...else. Each piece is distinct, discreetly sufficient in its own ways of existence, but seems to amiably tolerate its neighbors. And between them, one starts to notice patterns, structures, echoes. These

works all have a sense of having *been through*, of having had to solve their own particular problems by growing in their own particular ways, aided by the artists' care and practices.  
- Mason Dowling

**Maria Theresa Barbist** was born in Schwaz, Austria and lives and works in Miami, Florida. She translates traumatic memories and emotional states into performative actions, moving pictures and sculptural objects. Barbist holds a PhD in psychology from the University of Innsbruck and received her MFA in New Genres from the San Francisco Art Institute.

Selected Solo exhibitions include KINDERLAND (2019), Taplin Gallery, Miami, Florida, FADENSPIELE (2015) Swenson Gallery, Miami, Florida and LEBENSBIlder – Life in Pictures (2013), Studio 16 Gallery, San Francisco, California. Selected group exhibitions include at the Diego Rivera Gallery, 'Echoes: From There To Here' (2019), at the Neue Galerie Home Is Where The Heart Is (2018) and at the Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami Intersectionality in South Florida (2016).

**Tisha Benson's** recent work concerns the relationships and interwoven evolution of works within a shared space, the effects of care, and the ways that energy flows and fluctuates.

Her work has been exhibited at Bass and Reiner Gallery and Will Brown Gallery in San Francisco. Tisha was born in Tacoma, Washington and received a BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute in 2015. She is currently pursuing her MFA at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

**Cassidy Garbutt** works in the space between painting and photography. Her recent camera-less work blends intuitive forms of mark making with intentional decision-making.

Cassidy lives and works in Sarasota, Florida. She holds a Master of Arts in communication from Marquette University, a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in painting from San Francisco Art Institute, and a Master of Fine Arts from The George Washington University.

Cassidy has exhibited internationally and recently showed at the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities. Her work is currently on view as part of the public art project, *Art in Common Places* in Sarasota, Florida.

**Mason Dowling** makes works with acrylic paint and found objects on a variety of media. He creates various objects, ceremonies, and systems which allow him to relinquish control of

creates various objects, ceremonies, and systems which allow him to relinquish control of his paintings and let them define its own form and logic.

Dowling has exhibited work at Bass and Reiner Gallery, Will Brown Gallery, and ODC Studios in San Francisco, California, at the Dakota Gallery in Bellingham, Washington, SITE Santa Fe in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Anonyme Zeichner in Berlin, Germany.

Dowling co-directed *Hardware Applied Services*, a gallery in Bellingham, Washington from 2018-2019. He received a BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute in 2015 and is currently pursuing his MFA at the University of South Florida in Tampa.