

Contact: Nicki Drumb, Marketing Manager
NDrumb@Crealdé.org
407-671-1886
Cell: 407-398-2862



July 1, 2021

Crealdé Presents “As I Am” Exhibition and Special Events Showcasing Florida-based Artists with Disabilities

Opening Reception: Friday, September 24, 7 to 9 pm

On View: September 24, 2021–January 9, 2022

Location: Alice & William Jenkins Gallery and the Showalter Hughes Community Gallery at Crealdé School of Art, 600 St. Andrews Blvd. Winter Park, FL 32792

Winter Park, Florida - Crealdé School of Art presents “As I Am.” A select group of artists from throughout Florida will claim their space in an exhibition lifting up themes of beauty, identity, authentic representation and liberation. The show features some of the state’s finest artists who are dedicated to exploring their own intersecting identities in order to illuminate our collective human condition. In addition, the ways in which artists of varying abilities interact with the natural world as a symbol of both limitation and freedom will be highlighted.

Several of the artists, including Dimelza Broche, a Cuban-born Jacksonville artist who uses a wheelchair, utilize images of the human figure as a vehicle for expressing vulnerability, empowerment and transformation. Others use their body as a direct tool for art making, as seen in the experience of Sandra Murphy Pak, a Gainesville-based painter with ALS, a progressive degenerative disease that affects the nerve cells, who deploys her feet and members of her care team to create mandala-like abstract works. Artist April Fitzpatrick builds upon her lived experiences around mental health and being a Black woman in her practice as an art therapist in her community of Tallahassee. All of these artists are engaged in supporting disability justice through their artwork and advocacy across the state of Florida.

This exhibition will serve as a platform for community outreach and new collaborations. Most significantly, a display of artwork created by youth in our region will complement the professional artist exhibition, providing an opportunity for schools and community groups to engage in artist residencies with the featured artists. Through the run of the exhibition, artists will interact with disability-supporting organizations and students in the Orlando area through workshops and artist talks.

According to the CDC, an estimated 28.1 percent of Florida adults experience some level of disability. *As I Am* is a significant next step in Crealdé’s commitment to become fully accessible as a facility, as an arts education initiative, and as a place for people to be fully seen. This exhibition and related programming are an important component in the organization’s long-standing commitment to diversity, full inclusion, and artistic excellence. The exhibition information and display texts will be in English and Spanish.

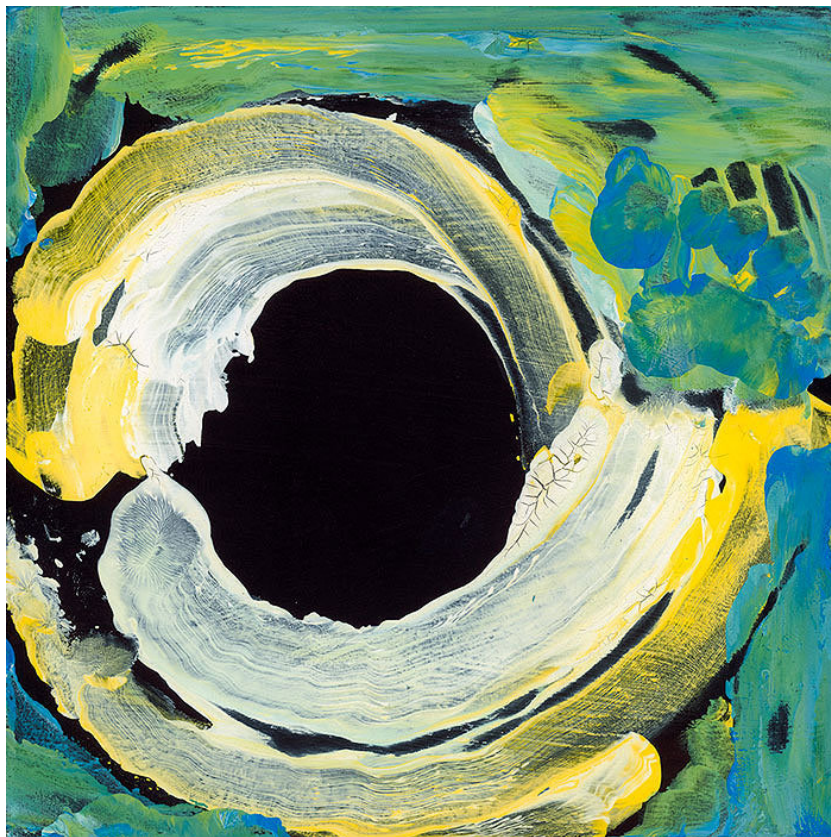
"We are honored to work with Hope McMath as a guest curator and to benefit from her tremendous experience integrating accessibility and the arts. Her expertise, combined with the input of the artists that she will co-create this experience with, will expand our capacity, knowledge, and ability to be more inclusive and welcoming," said CEO/Executive Director Peter Schreyer. McMath is the founder of Yellow House in Jacksonville and former director of the Cummer Museum in Jacksonville which has become world-renowned for its commitment to accessibility. She brings 25 years of experience in arts accessibility, curatorial practice, and the merging of cultural activity to advance social justice.



Dimelza Broche, *Reinventing Venus/Rebirth of Venus*, Mixed media, fiber, plaster, plastic, polymer gypsum, glass, and wood, 8' x 4'



Dimelza Broche, *Dear Innocence*, Oil on Canvas, 24"x 24"



Sandra Murphy Pak, *Untitled #243*, Tempera Paint on Wood, 36" x 36"

This program is funded in part by grants from Orange County Government through the Arts & Cultural Affairs Program with additional funding from the City of Winter Park. We thank them for their support.



Crealdé School of Art is a community based nonprofit arts organization established in 1975. It features a year-round curriculum of over 125 visual arts classes for students of all ages taught by a faculty of more than 45 professional artists. Crealdé's main campus offers two galleries and an outdoor sculpture garden. The Hannibal Square Heritage Center, established in 2007 by Crealdé in partnership with the City of Winter Park, pays tribute through its permanent collection to contributions of Winter Park's historic African American community, as well as hosting visiting exhibitions. A limited number of classes are also held at the Jessie Brock Community Center in Winter Garden.

web: Crealde.org/ | FB: [@Crealdéschoolofart](https://www.facebook.com/Crealdéschoolofart) | IG: [@Crealdéschool](https://www.instagram.com/Crealdéschool) | Youtube: [@Crealdéschoolofart](https://www.youtube.com/Crealdéschoolofart)



Main Campus

600 St. Andrews Blvd.
Winter Park, FL 32792
p 407.671.1886 | f 407.671.0311

Programs and exhibitions for all ages
in Painting & Drawing, Digital & Film
Photography, Ceramics, Sculpture,
Fiber Arts, Jewelry and Glass.

Hannibal Square Heritage Center

642 W. New England Ave.
Winter Park, FL 32789
p 407.539.2680 | f 407.539.2682

Established to pay tribute to Winter
Park's historic African-American
community through documentary
photography, oral history and public art.

