

OCEAN SCHOLARS

As anyone from California Maritime can tell you, we are the nation's sole West Coast-based maritime academy. The school's precise location at the mouth of the Carquinez Strait places all of us at a monumental junction. Here, the tidal estuary of the Sacramento and the San Joaquin rivers gives way to the San Pablo and San Francisco Bays, and approximately 40 percent of California's water drains to the open ocean alongside us while we study, learn, eat, sleep. Although ours is the smallest campus in the California State University system, its location places us at the gateway between the end of the continent and the biggest thing in the world: the international waterway system of Earth's oceans.

Working in the vicinity of such an immense presence, it's no wonder that both of us have developed art practices that are deeply influenced by and devoted to oceans. For this informal exhibition,

we've gathered a small selection of recent works that manifest our passion for our respective ocean of study: the Arctic (Lauren) and the Pacific (Jon). In many ways, the differences between these two enormous bodies of water mirror the differences in our work. Lauren's work uses the Arctic as a platform to discuss global issues. Jon's work harnesses the Pacific as a marker of memory, time, and place. Lauren's field work takes her to the far reaches of Russia, Jon's to the lesser islands of the of Bay Area. Lauren's work skews cultural. Jon's metaphysical. These contrasts are useful: much like the oceans of the world physically link us all through international waters, displaying our work together gives us opportunities to discover connections between disciplines, philosophies, and states of mind.

Lauren Hartman

Dept. of Culture & Communication

Jon Fischer

Dept of Engineering Technology

Lauren Hartman combines visual art and archival research to document the shifting landscape of the Arctic. She has hosted international workshops and established scholarly archives based on her research. Her artwork, which incorporates textile art, diorama, and illustration, examines the dynamics between natural forces, mythology, and man-made superstructures. To create her collection of hand-stitched embroideries, she collected and reconstructed material from scientific research trips and original sources including travel brochures and tourist snapshots. A book based on her Arctic work, funded by a CMA faculty development grant, comes out this summer.

Jon Fischer uses loops, natural cycles, and sequences as both the subject and the physical form of his artwork. He opened his first art studio in 2006 (the same year he started full time teaching at Cal Maritime), developing a technique that combines painting, photography, and silkscreen. Since then his practice has expanded to incorporate printmaking through sculpture, performance, and video. His work has been exhibited across the country including San Francisco City Hall, Vanderbilt University, McEvoy Foundation for the Arts, White Stone Gallery in Philadelphia, and Kala Art Institute. In August 2019, Turntable Drawings--his ongoing collaboration with composer Danny Clay--will be presented as a public program at the de Young museum in San Francisco.

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CATALOG



Cruise 2007 | Polaroid print

LAUREN HARTMAN

MELT PONDS

2015
Embroidery on silk
11x14 inches

BREAKING THROUGH

2017
Embroidery on silk
18 x 24 inches

LEMIRE CHANEL

2017
Embroidery on silk
16 x 12 inches

POLAR HORIZON

2017
Embroidery on silk
16 x 12 inches

CALVING INTO THE SEA

2017
Embroidery on silk
14 x 14 inches

JON FISCHER

BIG HORIZON 2 (work in progress)

Screen prints on canvas
65 x 71 inches (five strips)

“THE WEST COAST”

3 layer screen print, thread, news-
print, redwood frame, hanging
hardware
8,5 x 12 in | 2016

“H.K. HARBOUR”

Summer Variation
Screen print on raw canvas
36 x 29 in | 2013
(based on an image from TSGB cruise)

EAST MARIN ISLD. 5 (2018)

57-Layer screen print on canvas,
wooden stretchers
29 x 29 inches

“WAS IT BEAUTIFUL?”

Collected weathercam images 2013-
15 Digital print on newsprint
289 x 380mm | 2015

מקום ZINE

Xeroxed booklet
5.5 x 8.5 in | 2019

Thanks: Michele Van Hoeck

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