

For Immediate Release

Target Gallery Spotlights Torpedo Factory Art Center's Post-Grad Residents in Newest Exhibition

2019 Post-Grad Residents

Friday, December 13, 2019 - Sunday, January 19, 2020

Homecoming Opening Reception: Friday, December 13, 7 – 10 pm, Gallery Talk at 8 pm



Michaela Japiec, *Little Blushing Girl*, 2019. Oil.

<http://torpedofactory.org/hours> to confirm availability.

Homecoming Opening Celebration

Friday, December 13 • 7 – 10 pm

For the exhibition opening, the Art Center looks back at the first five years of the Post-Grad Residency Program with a lively [Homecoming](#) art party. Meet the 2019 artists and hear them talk about their work. Reconnect with returning alumni and meet the new 2020 cohort. The Gallery Talk begins at 8 pm.

About the Artists

Michaela Japiec (BFA George Mason University) Michaela is an artist currently based in Alexandria, Virginia. She recently completed her bachelor's of fine arts in 2018 from George Mason University. Through her art, she works through conflicting thoughts she has about her sexuality, body insecurities, and feelings of oppression. During her residency, Michaela pushed her themes and visual style of photo realism vs exaggerated abstraction to reflect this inner dialogue. She has three figural works in the exhibition that show the evolution of her concepts.

Nava Levenson (BFA James Madison University) Nava is a multidisciplinary artist, instigator, and collaborator based in Richmond, Virginia. She completed her bachelor's of fine arts in 2017 from James Madison University. Her work combines installation surrounding concepts of gender and queer identity as well as anthropological and archival

documentation. During her residency, Nava was focused on her project, *Practice Preserves: Studio Dirt*. In the same way thrift stores reveal things about American culture, she seeks to archive artists' practices. She invites artists to add studio scraps and discarded material in quart-sized canning jars, which she then opens, catalogs, and photographs for an anthology she hopes to publish. For this exhibition, Nava creates an installation of the jars reminiscent of an archival collection and invites viewers to investigate and engage with the materials.

Katana Lippart (BFA George Mason University) Katana is a collage artist and printmaker based in Brunswick, MD. She graduated from George Mason University with her bachelor's in fine arts in 2018. During her residency, she has concentrated on a collage series that will help resolve the broken ties between self and home. This has held a significant amount of weight in her life and has manifested into her work. Through her residency and this culminating exhibition, Katana's goal has been to share printmaking, book arts, and collage with the surrounding community. platform to reflect on both personal and collective narratives relating to home.



Kim Sandara, *Childhood Mom and Me*, 2019. Paper puppets from *The Origins of Kin and Kang* animation.

Kim Sandara (BFA Maryland Institute College of Art) Kim is a queer, Lao/Viet, artist based in Falls Church, Virginia. In 2016, she graduated from the Maryland Institute College of Art with a bachelor's of fine arts. Accessibility to art is a key part of her creative process. Her overall focus is to encourage empathy, wonder, self-reflection, and connection. During the residency, she continued her animation series documenting her coming out story. She created a stop-motion animation, *The Origins of Kin and Kang*, which is aimed at helping parents of color, particularly first-generation immigrants, to understand and accept their queer children. The animation will be on view during the exhibition as well as installation featuring the sketches and puppets featured in the stop-motion film.

About Target Gallery

Target Gallery is the contemporary exhibition space of the Torpedo Factory Art Center. The gallery promotes high standards of art by continuously exploring new ideas through a variety of visual media in a rotating schedule of juried group and solo exhibitions. The gallery is open daily from 10 – 6 pm and until 9 pm on Thursdays. More information is available via torpedofactory.org/target. follow Target Gallery on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Pinterest](#) via @targetgallery.

About Torpedo Factory Art Center

Founded in 1974 in an old munitions plant, Torpedo Factory Art Center is home to the nation's largest number of publicly accessible working artist studios under one roof. The City of Alexandria manages Torpedo Factory Art Center through the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities as part of the [Office of the Arts](#)' family of programs and facilities. Just south of Washington, D.C., the Torpedo Factory Art Center overlooks the Potomac River in the Old Town section of Alexandria, Va. Each year, more than a half million national and international visitors meet and interact with more than 160 resident artists in 82 studios and seven galleries. For more information, visit torpedofactory.org or follow the Art Center on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Pinterest](#) via @torpedofactory.

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High Resolution Images and Interviews Available

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