

Associated Artists of Pittsburgh presents

Cutting Holes for Eyes

September 29 – November 4, 2023

Media Contact: Madeline Gent, madeiline@aapgh.org, 412-361-1370

<https://www.aapgh.org/cutting-holes-for-eyes>

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (September 21, 2023) – Associated Artists of Pittsburgh presents *Cutting Holes for Eyes*, an exhibition of work by artists Nicole Czapinski and Centa Schumacher. The exhibition is the culmination of a two-year collaboration between Czapinski and Schumacher. Czapinski and Schumacher sent sample pieces, inspirational texts, materials and scraps from their studios, and finished pieces back and forth (sometimes across the country) as part of an experiment in which they gave one another creative freedom and control. Without instruction, each artist could alter, cut up, filter, add to, and reconstruct the sent items. Through trust in one another and the potential of the object, the artists produced works exhibited in the space and online.

“What started as a way to support each other and stay accountable to our art practices became a container for real vulnerability and change,” says Czapinski and Schumacher. “This collaboration has led to an incredible amount of discovery for us both. Having the opportunity to share our work through this exhibition with AAP has given us a space to recognize the results of this project and the transformation that has occurred because of it.”

The exhibition debuts 23 new works by the artists. Accompanying the exhibition will be a publication that features images of the works in the show and essays by Charlie Taylor, AAP’s 2023 Fine Foundation Fellow and graduate student in History of Art at Bryn Mawr College, and Helen Trompeteler, Deputy Director of Programs at Silver Eye Center for Photography. An online store featuring work by the artists as individuals and collaborators will also coincide with the exhibition.

“We collaborate with one another all the time – at our homes, offices, and in our communities – and Centa and Nicole’s work highlight the power of collaboration,” says AAP Executive Director Madeline Gent. “The artwork they were able to create through total trust in one another speaks to the importance of relationships. Their art enables us to reconsider creative processes and the role others (other artists, other friends, other family) play in our work.”

Opening Reception:

- Saturday, September 30, 2023, 5:00pm–7:00pm
- Free and open to the public. Light snacks and refreshments will be served.

Art Marking Workshop

- Saturday, October 7, 2023, 12:00pm–3:00pm
- Czapinski and Schumacher will host an art-making workshop that explores the creative processes behind the exhibition.
- Free and open to the public.
- This workshop is Associated Artists of Pittsburgh's RAD Days 2023 event. Organized by the Allegheny Regional Asset District, RAD days are 40 days of more than 70 free events and experiences throughout Allegheny County. Learn more at <https://www.radworkshere.org/events/rad-days-2023-at-associated-artists-of-pittsburgh>

The exhibition opens on Friday, September 29th. Admission to the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh Exhibition Space is free. More information about the exhibition can be found at www.aapgh.org/cutting-holes-for-eyes or by calling (412)361-1370. Gallery hours are 11:00am–6:00pm, Wednesdays–Fridays with additional Saturdays posted online.

This exhibition and accompanying publication were made possible by a grant from The Pittsburgh Foundation to support the professional development of artists in the region. Associated Artists of Pittsburgh receives funding from The Heinz Endowments, Hillman Family Foundations, The Pittsburgh Foundation, The Fine Foundation, Allegheny Regional Asset District, The Buhl Foundation, The Irving and Aaronel deRoy Gruber Foundation, and individual supporters. To learn more about the organization and support our work, visit <https://www.aapgh.org/donate>.

About Nicole Czapinski

Nicole Czapinski is an interdisciplinary artist from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, whose long-term exploration of perception combines photography, drawing, sculpture, and video. Since receiving a BA from Bennington College in 2006, her work has been shown nationally. Recent solo exhibitions include Burlington City Arts, The Westmoreland Museum of American Art, and Silver Eye Center for Photography.

About Centa Schumacher

Centa Schumacher is a lens-based artist based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She works with a homemade tool assembled from vintage camera elements, creating work that distorts light and perspective. Recent solo projects have been exhibited in Pittsburgh at Bunker Projects, 707 Gallery, and the Silver Eye Center for Photography. She received her MFA from San Francisco State University.

About Associated Artists of Pittsburgh

The Associated Artists of Pittsburgh (AAP) is the oldest continuous-exhibiting artist member organization in the country. Founded in 1910, Associated Artists of Pittsburgh is a 501(c)3 non-profit that exhibits, promotes, and supports the work of visual artists who call Pittsburgh and the surrounding region home. AAP organizes 7-12 exhibitions a year at our Lawrenceville space and with partners throughout western Pennsylvania, manages various educational and professional development workshops, and provides additional programming for our artist

community. Membership is achieved through a juried process, and the next membership screening opens in late 2023.

Images:

- Nicole Czapinski in collaboration with Centa Schumacher, *untitled (detail)*, 2023, Archival Inkjet Photograph, 12 x 24 in.
- Centa Schumacher in collaboration with Nicole Czapinski, *Hole Punch Drawing (2)*, 2022, Archival Inkjet Photograph, 16 x 20 in.
- Nicole Czapinski in collaboration with Centa Schumacher, *Hole Punch Drawing (3)*, 2022, Archival Inkjet Photograph, 16 x 20 in.
- Centa Schumacher in collaboration with Nicole Czapinski, *Weft Stop Motion*, 2021, Archival Inkjet Photograph, 18 x 12 in.