TWENTY TWENTY
June 14, 2020 to January 3, 2021

Twenty Twenty is an exhibition of works on paper rolled out sequentially over the course of six months during the 2020 election season that gives a platform to seven artists who make drawings based on photographic imagery. The exhibition asks the question can a ‘slow’ museum exhibition actively participate in democracy amidst the cacophony of Tweets and abbreviated news app headlines via a medium that moves no faster that the speed of a human hand pushing a pencil? Twenty Twenty will be on view at The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum June 14, 2020 to January 3, 2021.

Twenty Twenty is not only a year, but also a term that describes meeting a standard of visual acuity. Embedded in its meaning is its opposite: a lack of proper focus and perceptual distortion. As the 2020 presidential election looms, the majority of Americans are bracing for a year of both tough political posturing and an over-stimulating media environment. Most agree that the stakes of the 2020 election are high, and the issues that are central to the debate will affect the country for a generation and beyond.

With digital media shortening the news cycle to seconds, it would seem an impossibility for the show and reflective media of drawing to add to the political and social dialogue that the election year will engender. What can the laborious, hand-production of images add to visual culture when digital screen refresh rates are less than a millisecond? The answer lies in intent and the nature of specific media: images on Instagram, the most ubiquitous image-relaying platform, are mostly posted for attention rather than conveying serious information, and the ease and frequency of uploading on the networking service does not promote sustained thoughtfulness. An image created by hand on paper suggests deliberation and perhaps more importantly, responsibility.

Artists participating in the exhibition include Marti Cormand, Oasa DuVerney, Judith Eisler, Andy Mister, William Powhida, Gil Scullion, and Diana Shpungin. The artists will be adding works to the exhibition in mid-September and early December creating a platform for response throughout the exhibition. Following key moments in the election cycle, the final installation of the exhibition will reflect the proceeding years’ political and social experiences through the lens of these artists’ lived experiences.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a multi-editioned newspaper published over the course of the election season.

Organized by Richard Klein, Exhibitions Director, The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum

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