

Studio Montclair Presents “A Town Called Montclair,” an Exhibition at Academy Square Galleries, 33 Plymouth Street, Montclair, NJ

May 3, 2018 to July 12, 2018

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Montclair, NJ (April 2018) – As the inaugural exhibition of Studio Montclair’s initiative to provide an “incubator space” for new and emerging artists, “A Town Called Montclair” features the work of two local artists, Fernando Mariscal and Chelsea Smith, and will run from May 3 through July 12, 2018, at Academy Square Galleries, 33 Plymouth Street, Montclair, NJ. An opening reception will be held on Thursday, May 3, from 6 to 9pm.

The works in the show reflect the rich history and vibrancy of Montclair as represented by its unique architecture, abundant parks, and diverse community as well as its reputation as a thriving community of working artists for nearly two centuries.

Mariscal’s brilliantly colored pastel paintings of Montclair vistas are executed in a loose, painterly style and reflect his intuitive and passionate sense of color. Smith’s haunting, ethereal photographs provide a powerful counterpoint to Mariscal’s work, and are manipulated to evoke her unique vision of the town, including such landmarks as Nishuane Park, Montclair Center, and Mills Reservation. Both artists are involved in local groups dedicated to building our community of active, progressive artists, and solidifying Montclair’s 150-year-old legacy as an independent cultural powerhouse in the region, an anniversary being widely celebrated during this Spring’s May in Montclair activities.

About the Artists

Fernando Mariscal studied art in his native Cusco, Peru and later at Essex Community College in NJ. In addition to creating murals in both Cusco and New Jersey, he has won competitions to have his work featured on the cover of *Montclair Townscape Magazine* in 2012-2013 and 2015-2016. He participates in collective exhibitions in New Jersey and New York.

Chelsea Smith has been a Montclair photographer and filmmaker for over 11 years. Her experimental films have been screened at Index Art Gallery. She graduated from Montclair State University in 2012 with a BFA in Filmmaking and a BA in English.

About the Incubator Program

Studio Montclair's "Incubator Program," directed by Kathryn Waggener McGuire and Lisa Diamond Rosenthal, seeks to mentor new and emerging artists and provide them with a space for what is often their first solo or small group show exhibit. Amy Tingle of the Creativity Caravan was guest mentor to Mariscal and Smith and helped them to select a body of work to be included in "A Town Called Montclair."

About Studio Montclair

Studio Montclair Inc. is a non-profit organization of exhibiting professional and emerging artists and others interested in the visual arts. In the past year, it has exhibited more than 280 works of art and has encouraged and interacted with close to 1,000 artists.

Listing Information for the Exhibition

Directors: Kathryn Waggener McGuire and Lisa Rosenthal

Artists: Fernando Mariscal and Chelsea Smith

Exhibition Dates: May 3, 2018 – July 12, 2018

Gallery: Academy Square Galleries, 33 Plymouth Street, Montclair, NJ

Gallery Hours: Monday to Friday 7am – 7pm

Images for Press

Fernando Mariscal, *Anderson Park*, chalk pastel, 18 x 24"

Fernando Mariscal, *Watchung Station*, chalk pastel, 18 x 24"

Chelsea Smith, *Stance*, fujifilm instax photo, 2.1 x 3.4"

Chelsea Smith, *Steps*, digital archive print, 11 x 17"