

FY2017
Crafts
Panel Biographies

Aaron McIntosh Quilts, weeds, yellowing wallpaper, firewood, a taxidermy bear and Colonial-Revival couch—his works reach across generational divides through a language of form and material dialect. Probing the images and cultural artifacts from his geographical, familial, and domestic background reveals gaps in which he can insert and reconstruct his own complicated narrative as a “nerdy Appalachian queer guy”. Stories of cruising men and family past-times are pieced together as a multi-layered patchwork of text, images, patterned cloth, personal clothing, furniture, wallpaper, drawings and found domestic textiles. His saturated works draw attention to the often murky intersection of personal desires and family institutions, as well as openly question our larger social constructions of deviancy, shame, adolescent imprinting and heteronormativity.

Helen Lee is an artist, designer, educator, and glassblower. She holds an MFA in Glass from the Rhode Island School of Design and a BSAD in Architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her honors include the inaugural Irwin Borowsky Prize in Glass Art in 2013 and the Edna Wiechers Arts in Wisconsin Award in 2014. She was nominated for a Louis Comfort Tiffany Award in 2015 and a USA Fellowship in 2016. Most recently, Lee received the Gold Award in the 2016 Bullseye Emerge exhibition. Her work is in the collections of the Minnesota Museum of American Art, the Corning Museum of Glass, the Chrysler Museum Glass Studio, and Toyama City Institute of Glass Art. Lee has worked as a freelance graphic designer for Chronicle Books and Celery Design Collaborative, and was an Affiliate Artist at Headlands Center for the Arts from 2009-2011. She has taught at Rhode Island School of Design, California College of Art, Toyama City Institute of Glass Art, Pilchuck Glass School, Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Pilchuck Glass School, the Chrysler Museum Glass Studio, and the MIT Glass Lab. She is currently an Assistant Professor and Head of Glass in the Art Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Evan Larson-Voltz received his MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art. After he was awarded a William J. Fulbright Research Grant to study metal craft traditions in Korea. Larson-Voltz is fascinated by the action of handwork as a prime human endeavor that shapes cognition. Currently his research investigates the intersection between aberrations in perception and crafts ability to invert (re-energize) the power dynamics within cultures of art. He has exhibited artwork nationally and internationally at The Museum of Arts & Crafts, Itami, Japan, Jyvaskyla Art Museum, Finland, Internationalen Handwerksmesse, Munich, Germany, at the National Ornamental Museum, Memphis, Tennessee, and the San Francisco Craft & Folk Art Museum in California. He has given lectures at Shanghai University, Seoul National University, Gerrit Rietveld Academie, amongst many other institutions.