



# close third person



Master of Fine Arts Exhibition 2018

University of Connecticut

Department of Art + Art History

Featuring Works by Kelsey Miller /  
Jelena Prljević / Kaleigh Rusgrove  
Erin Koch Smith / Claire Stankus

The title, *Close Third Person*, was inspired by an interview with Joan Didion in the Paris Review where she discusses eschewing first person in *Play It As It Lays*, writing mostly in “a ‘close third’... very close to the mind of the character.” *Suddenly one night I realized I had some first person and some third person and I was going to have to go with both, or just not write a book at all. I was scared.*

Like a voice that wavers, breaks apart and strengthens with confidence in the middle of a sentence, this show is about the gap between voices, and the struggle to use the perspective that distance can provide while holding onto the power of the first person. It is about the hazy space between what we see and can't understand, between what is said and what is assumed, between what we can change and what we can't, and the challenge to hold it all together with one collective voice.

The William Benton  
Museum of Art  
April 3 – May 6

Opening Reception  
18 April  
5:00 – 7:30 PM

245 Glenbrook Road  
Storrs, CT 06269  
[www.thebenton.org](http://www.thebenton.org)

LMAKgallery  
14 June – 27 July

Opening Reception  
14 June  
6:00 – 8:00 PM

2898 Grand Street  
New York, NY 10002  
[www.lmakgallery.com](http://www.lmakgallery.com)