

Press Release: Two Powerful Exhibitions Examine Myth, Truth, and Imagination

Julie Jablonski's *Fractured Frontier: A Reckoning*
and Kat & Phillip Potter's *A Conundrum of Unconventional Media*

Opening on Friday, May 16 – Doors open at 6:00 pm

Exhibit runs from Friday, May 16 through Sunday, June 1, 2025

Pirate: Contemporary Art
7130 W 16th Avenue
Lakewood, CO 80214

Open Fridays 6:00pm – 9:00pm; Saturdays and Sundays 12:00pm – 5:00pm

Jablonski's *Fractured Frontier* deconstructs the mythologies of Western expansion and the American Dream. Through vibrant paintings, a subversive wall sculpture and the grotesque video *Eating the Tomahawk*, Jablonski critiques the violence of unchecked consumption and the colonial logic of progress, exposing the distortions of truth within these narratives.

A Conundrum of Unconventional Media, curated by Kat and Phillip Potter, features work by eight Colorado artists (Arnolf Dick, Susan DiMarchi, Jessica Ellis, Kristin Gruenberger, Susan Keefe, Michael Poppitz, Kat Potter, Phillip Potter), exploring myth, magic, and pretension using unconventional materials. This group show celebrates originality and pushes artistic boundaries, challenging viewers to reconsider truth and identity in an increasingly uniform world.

Together, these exhibitions offer fresh perspectives on the stories we tell and the truths we accept and imagine.

For more information, contact:

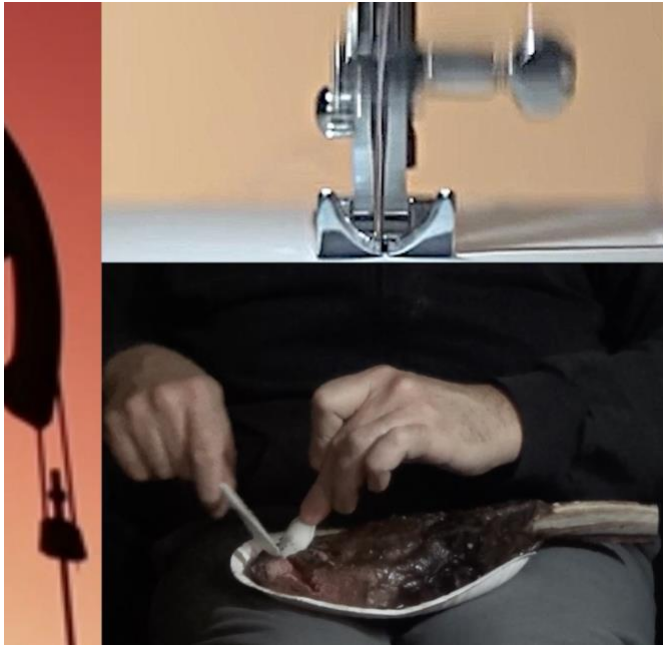
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Kat and Phil Potter: pirategallery@protonmail.com

Pirate: Contemporary Art is a member run co-operative art space. For more than 42 years Pirate has provided a place for Denver-area artists to show their work and to experiment with new ideas and concepts. As a non-profit, Pirate fills the gaps left by the commercial and public sector to advocate issues in art education, art activism, and promotion of unrepresented artists. www.pirateartonline.org

Images:



still shot from video *Eating the Tomahawk* by Julie Jablonski (2024, 52 minutes)



Kat and Phillip Potter, *A Neo-Artifact Throwback to 90s Underground Zine Subculture, Show Card*, 2025, simulated photocopy on paper, 5.5in x 8.5in

Jablonski Artist Statement:

In her series *Fractured Frontier: a Reckoning*, Julie Jablonski explores states of flux, drawing on the mythologies of the American Dream—particularly Western expansion, rugged individualism, and patriarchal dominance. Each work captures a chaotic in-between where erosion and reordering collide, and where ‘truth’ dissolves, distorts, and reimagines itself mid-transformation.

In two expressionist oil and acrylic paintings, vibrant impasto gestures spill beyond the picture plane, resisting the sepia-toned nostalgia of a fabricated “Old West” with fleshy saturation and joy rooted in contemporary reimagining. In a sculptural wall arrangement, steel cubes, militant in formation, are made clownish by etched RV logos—critiquing leisure as conquest and turning Americana into both subject and satire.

The 52-minute single-take video *Eating the Tomahawk* literalizes the grotesque endpoint of unchecked consumption. A man struggles to eat a 45-ounce Tomahawk steak with a flimsy spork and plastic knife, without drink or help. His slow, awkward effort is both comedic and excruciating. The piece critiques the violence of progress as endless extraction—by pairing the monotonous footage with the cyclical motion of a sewing machine needle and oil pump. These domestic and industrial relics evoke colonization and capitalist production, echoing the Western logic of more, faster, cheaper, now.

This body of work emerges from deep political grief and rage. In the wake of attempts by the current administration to ‘return’ to some gilded age (for whom?), Jablonski returns to the American mythos not to uphold it, but to interrogate and dismantle it. This is not nostalgia; it is a reckoning.

Potter Artist Statement:

A Conundrum of Unconventional Media is a curated group show featuring works by Arnolf Dick, Susan DiMarchi, Jessica Ellis, Kristin Gruenberger, Susan Keefe, Michael Poppitz, Kat Potter and Phillip Potter. In this contemporary art exhibit, these eight Colorado artists exploring themes of myth, magic, pretension and truth using an array of unconventional media. The exhibit is distinguished by the multiplicity of artists, concepts and media involved, and its celebration of originality and diversity in an increasingly artificial and uniform world. Exhibited works include sculpture, tableaux, curios, ceramics, fiber installations, drawings, paintings and silhouettes.