San Francisco Arts Education Project

We are honored to present the work of these nine celebrated Bay Area artists. Each has been or is still a part of SFArtsED as a mentor through our education programs. Their thoughtful and distinct responses are a testament to the deeply personal nature of art making.

This exhibition was planned well in advance of the very big change that we are now experiencing in our world. *See / Change 2020* was the title chosen to contain the artists' expressions regarding the status quo, any part of it on which they wished to comment or to respond.

And now the status quo is something quite different. We find ourselves in a time, it seems, when all of the issues we have been facing are in greater relief: disparities in society, lack of cohesive leadership, and the specter of impending environmental catastrophe.

All of the artists had selected their work for this group show before the pandemic. But since the world changed, and since this show has moved from our Minnesota Street Project gallery to a virtual space, I felt it important to check in with them. To a person, they think the pieces we are exhibiting are more meaningful in this moment, and it is more urgent than ever to continue making art. They are engaged in their art practices, in their homes or studios, and through their images, objects, or films, they will continue speaking *their* truth to power with humor, intelligence and deep beauty.

And for each, there is a belief in simply making things, the very act itself, with the intentions, the play, the curiosity about the materiality, and the poetic accident. This conversation with themselves gives them a center from which to move powerfully and to engage others in important dialogue.

I find it so heartening to know that these artists, with their deeply investigated practices and clear ideas about our world, all continue to educate young people. We are talking a lot about heroes in our community, now. These artists are among mine.

Emily Keeler
SFArtsED Artistic Director