

*Black White*

Creativity Explored artists examine contrast and interconnection

May 11 – June 29, 2017

Opening reception: Thursday, May 11, 7 – 9 PM

Creativity Explored Gallery

3245 Sixteenth Street, San Francisco

Gallery hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 AM – 3 PM;

Thursday 10 AM – 7 PM; Saturday and Sunday, 12 – 5 PM

San Francisco, Tuesday, April 5, 2017 - Creativity Explored, the premier nonprofit visual art gallery and studio for artists with developmental disabilities, presents *Black White*, a group exhibition that explores the sharp distinction between black and white and the many nuanced ways of blurring it.

Co-curated by Creativity Explored's long-time Executive Director Amy Taub, *Black White* celebrates the impossibility of strict divisions. Taub will retire at the end of June, after more than 35 years working in the field of developmental disability. "Nothing is ever completely black and white. Ability and disability are shades of gray," Taub explains.

The show's inspiration, though, is less conceptual and more about creating an opportunity for artists to experiment with a monochromatic palate. Many of the artists participating in the show have never worked with black and white, and doing so opened possibilities for new ways of seeing and looking. Co-curator and prominent art consultant/co-founder of Creative Rescue remarks, "Looking at black and white art always leaves just a little bit more room for the imagination."

*Black White* includes work from over 40 artists, from miniature sculpture to large-scale banners, ink drawings to mixed media collage. Featured artworks include a selection of methodically-drawn books of buses and trucks by Daniel Li; one of Elana Cooper's

grand, floral silhouettes; and, a fantastical cadre of slithering creatures painted by Richard Wright. Also included are painted vases by Kate Thompson, adorned with the dancer motif that corresponds with the mural recently mounted just outside the Creativity Explored gallery entrance on Sixteenth Street.

Of particular interest is Steven Liu's series, *After Egon Schiele*, a set of large-scale portraits on translucent paper floating in the gallery window. Each drawing is more captivating than the next, as Liu's signature line technique outlines simple but surreal figures. In the style of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century painter whose work inspired the series, Liu does not overlook the details that subtly give life to each subject - tiny wrinkles around the mouth, for example, or the creases in a bent knuckle.

The final exhibition of Taub's tenure at Creativity Explored, *Black White* provides a dazzling demonstration of the complex and profound possibilities that exist between black and white.

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### **About Creativity Explored**

Creativity Explored is a dynamic nonprofit art center and gallery where artists with developmental disabilities have been creating, exhibiting and selling their art for over 33 years. Located in the vibrant cultural and dining corridor that transverses San Francisco's Mission District, Creativity Explored provides a supportive studio environment, including individualized instruction from mentoring artists, quality supplies, and professional opportunities to exhibit and sell art. The organization establishes the work of artists with developmental disabilities as an emerging and increasingly important contribution to the contemporary art world.

Founded by Florence and Elias Katz in 1983, Creativity Explored has expanded to two locations: the main gallery and studio on Sixteenth Street in San Francisco's Mission District, and a second studio in nearby Potrero Hill. Gallery programming now includes six exhibitions per year, with more than 15,000 people visiting the gallery and studio

annually. This year's remaining calendar of exhibitions includes *Nudes*, a five-person exhibition exploring and celebrating the human form; *Bride of Monster*, a small group exhibition that reinterprets female monsters from film, folklore, and mythology in wild and woolly new ways; and the Annual Holiday Art Shop, a well-loved shopping tradition in which Creativity Explored's studio and gallery are filled with original art prints, paintings, drawings, ceramics, sculptures, and textiles by over 135 artists.

Over the years, the organization's innovative and respected programs have been recognized as a model in the field of art and disability worldwide. In addition to the studios, exhibitions, and gallery sales, Creativity Explored has developed a licensing division, working with the likes of Google, affordable modern furnishing company CB2, and fashion house COMMES de GARÇONS; and provides art services for several properties, including the affordable development BRIDGE Housing and Avalon Mission Bay, an upscale apartment community.

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Images for *Black White* may be downloaded from the Press Room at the Creativity Explored website:

<https://www.creativityexplored.org/press-room/3494/black-white>

For more information: 415-863-2108; <http://www.creativityexplored.org>

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