

Creativity Explored is proud to present:

**Five and Two Others**  
**Curated by Mildred Howard**

March 14 - May 2, 2019

Opening Reception: Thursday, March 14, 2019  
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Donor Preview and Curator Meet & Greet: 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Creativity Explored Gallery

3245 Sixteenth Street, San Francisco

Gallery hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 AM - 5 PM  
Thursday 10 AM - 7 PM; Saturday 12 PM – 5 PM



*Untitled* by Vincent Jackson, 2019 © Creativity Explored Licensing, LLC, marker and colored pencil on chipboard, 8.25 x 8.25 inches

San Francisco, January 29, 2019 - Creativity Explored, the premier nonprofit visual art gallery and studio for artists with developmental disabilities, is proud to announce *Five and Two Others*, a new group exhibition curated by Mildred Howard.

Curator and acclaimed artist Mildred Howard believes, “Art is art, regardless of who makes it.” In this forthcoming group show, Howard presents selected artworks of five artists working in the Creativity Explored studios, Vincent Jackson, James Miles, Selene Perez, Evelyn Reyes, and Lance Rivers, alongside two contemporary independent artists working in the Bay Area, Oliver Lee Jackson and John Moore. Addressing inequities in curatorial practices in the art world, Howard aims to open up a dialogue about artistic representation by presenting groupings of small format works by artists with and without developmental disabilities, with an egalitarian vision and exceptional grace.

Mildred Howard worked as a Visual Arts Instructor in the Creativity Explored studio in the late 1980s during the formative years of the organization. Since that time, Howard has become known for her activism as well as intricately designed installations uncovering what is seldom seen in the realm of art history with a critical focus on race, social justice, and identity. Recently, Howard unveiled a new installation at the Oakland Museum of California entitled [\*Tap: Investigation of Memory\*](#).

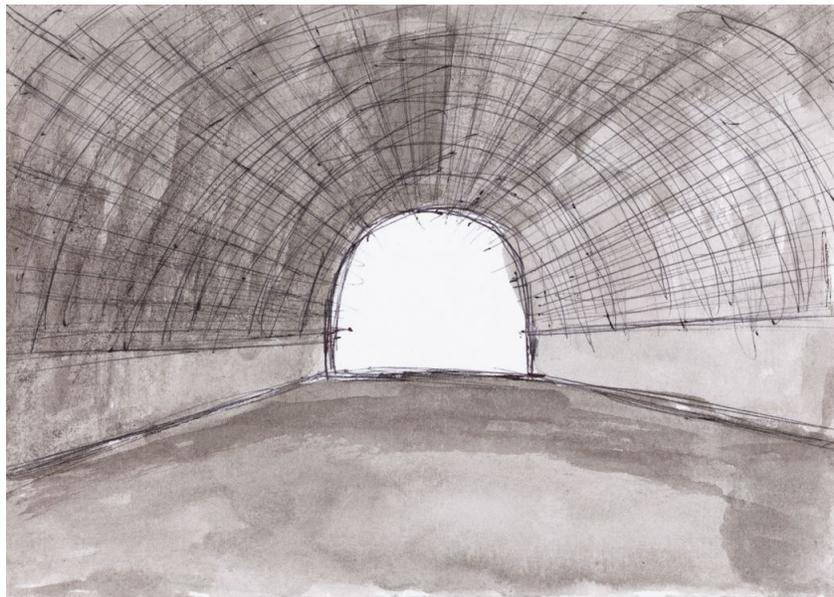
In returning to the Creativity Explored studio, Howard was struck by the incredible talent and vision of artists with developmental disabilities, and thus, the lack of representation of these artists in the world of contemporary art. Working with the exhibitions team at Creativity Explored, Howard hand-selected small works of five artists, each representing unique visual vocabularies, artistic styles, and personal backgrounds.

In an effort to level the playing field, Howard has included works by John Moore and Oliver Lee Jackson to share walls of the Creativity Explored gallery, a space typically reserved for artwork produced in the studios. *Five and Two Others* poses challenging questions to the art world: Why is art produced by artists with developmental disabilities relegated to spaces like Creativity Explored? When will institutions simply appreciate, collect, and exhibit “good art” for what it is?

Join us as we celebrate Howard’s new exhibition, steeped with a contemporary activist aesthetic. The opening reception for *Five & Two Others* will take place on March 14, 2019 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Creativity Explored gallery. Creativity Explored donors will enjoy a VIP Meet & Greet with Howard from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. At the opening, Creativity Explored will

release a new catalog of *Five and Two Others*, memorializing Howard's activist vision and the groundbreaking exhibition. The catalog will include additional artwork not featured on display as well as a curatorial statement from Howard outlining her process and vision.

Artwork on display by Creativity Explored artists will be available for sale to the public with 50% of proceeds benefitting the artists directly. Inquiries for works by John Moore and Oliver Lee Jackson will be directed to curator Mildred Howard.



*Tunnel View Landscape* by Lance Rivers, 2011 © Creativity Explored Licensing, LLC, watercolor and ballpoint pen on matte board, 5 x 7 inches

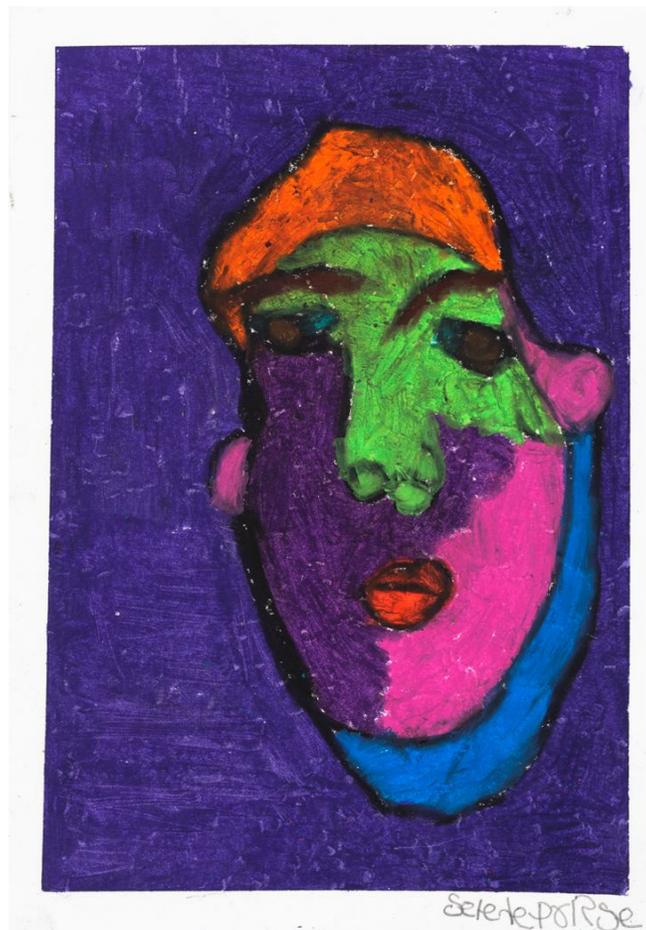
### **About Mildred Howard**

**Mildred Howard** (b. 1945), installation and mixed-media artist, teacher and educator has received numerous awards including, the 2004/2005 Joan Mitchell Foundation Award, the 2003 California Arts Council Artists Fellowship, Flintridge Foundation Award for Visual Arts, Anonymous Was a Woman Fellowship, An NEA Grant in sculpture, a Rockefeller Artists Fellowship to Bellagio, Italy a Lila Wallace Readers Digest Fellowship to Oaxaca, Mexico, and the Fleischhacker Fellowship.

She has exhibited widely nationally and internationally. Exhibitions include Townhouse Gallery (Cairo, Egypt), Neuberger Biennale in Public Art (Purchase, New York), Walcott Chapel (Bath,

England), Museum of the African Diaspora (San Francisco, CA), and Gallery Paule Anglim (San Francisco, CA). Her work is included in collections of the De Young Museum (San Francisco, CA) Oakland Museum of California, San José Museum of Art, Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art (Hartford, Connecticut), Washington State Art Commission and the San Francisco Arts Commission.

Howard received her MFA degree from John F. Kennedy University in Orinda, CA. She is known for her large-scale installations invoking both collective history and persona narrative, such as *Tap: Investigation of Memory*, *Blackbird in a Red Sky*, *AKA Fall of the Blood House* and the 1991 Adaline Kent Award, for which she created her moving tribute to the children of the Soweto massacre, *Ten Little Children Standing in a line (one got shot, and then there were nine)*. In January, 2019, Howard received the Wanda Otey Westheimer Distinguished Visiting Artist Chair from the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art of the University of Oklahoma.



*Untitled* by Selene Perez, 2018 © Creativity Explored Licensing, LLC, oil pastel on paper, 10 x 7.25 inches

## Five Artists from Creativity Explored

**Vincent Jackson** (b. 1961, San Francisco) is one of Creativity Explored most prolific and longest practicing artists. Known for his large-scale figurative oil pastels, Jackson's thick linework and boldly colored shapes define new geometries of the human form, resulting in mask-like renewals of traditional African and Oceanic folk art imagery.

Jackson's work was chosen to adorn the third series of artisanal chocolates from Recchiuti Confections. Also, CB2 chose his work for a limited edition tote bag and for a [ceramic vase](#). Jackson joined the Creativity Explored studio in 1984 and has exhibited work nationally and internationally including *Fonds Duvel Moortgat* at MADmusée in 2016 (Liège, Belgium) and selected works at Funabashi Cure Gallery (Funabashi, Japan) in 2003, among dozens of local exhibitions and shows at the Creativity Explored gallery.



*Untitled* by James Miles, 2019 © Creativity Explored Licensing, LLC, mixed media on wood block, 1 x 1.5 x .75 inches, 1.25 x 2.75 x 5 inches, 1.5 x 3 x .75 inches, 1.5 x 3.75 x .75 inches

**James Miles** (b. 1957, San Francisco) is known for his miniature ink drawings of quiet scenes that tell stories. Miles' scenes blur the distinctions between inside/outside, near/far, small/large, male/female, and past/present, enticing audiences into the paradoxically immense spaces of his diminutive artwork. His scenes celebrate ambiguity, particularly in the everyday. Miles joined the Creativity Explored studio in 1998.

Miles' work has been featured in several prominent exhibitions including *This Container Isn't Big Enough* at the Whitney Museum of American Art (New York, NY) in 2004; and in 2011, *Create*, a traveling exhibition that originated at the UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive. Miles' work adorns three pillow designs for CB2 as well as one of [Google's 2015 self-driving car prototypes](#). In 2018, Miles work was included in *Nine Hearts Exploring* at Jack Fischer Gallery (San Francisco, CA).

**Selene Perez** (b. 1982, Mexico) is known for her vast bestiary of strong, graphic drawings of animals. Ranging from seven-legged cats to flocks of geese in flight, Perez makes her creatures with the simplest of marks across an array of media. Perez joined the Creativity Explored studio in 2006. The influence of printmaking is evident in all of her work. The vivid contrast between dark and light, and fine line and densely black form, are skillfully balanced. Her "ink blot" birds combine bodies made from abstract slashes of feathery ink with thin, carefully drawn feet and necks into figures that blend motion and solidity; while her charcoal silhouettes of various beasts and creatures are compact evocations of form. Perez handles her subjects with a sense of whimsy that softens the stark black and white pieces.

Perez's imaginative creatures come to life in her [gull pillow](#) made in collaboration with [CB2](#) in 2014. In 2013, her work was featured in *Outside In: The Art of Inclusion* at Crawford Art Gallery (Cork, Ireland). In 2018, a portrait of Frida Kahlo by Perez was included in *World of Frida* at Bedford Gallery at Leshner Center for the Arts (Walnut Creek, CA). Recently, Perez's "ink-blot" birds were featured in *Five Women* at the Outsider Art Fair 2019 (New York, NY) to critical acclaim.



*Carrots (Yellow)* by Evelyn Reyes, ca. 2006-2009 © Creativity Explored Licensing, LLC, oil pastel on paper, 11 x 17 inches

**Evelyn Reyes** (b. 1957) creates series of works of repeated abstract shapes in oil pastel on paper. Working on one specific shape at a time, her periods of abstract depictions include cakes, garbage cans, and carrots. With ritualistic reverence for each aspect of the process, Reyes' art practice mirrors the repetition and order that are central to her daily life. Reyes worked in Creativity Explored's studio from 2002 to 2017, and her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally. Her work is included in the permanent collections of Le MADmusée (Liège, Belgium) and the University of California Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (Berkeley, CA).

CB2 chose Reyes' carrots as the basis for two pillow designs, and COMME des GARÇONS selected Reyes' work for three t-shirts in 2013. In 2015, Reyes' artworks *Three Black Carrots*, 2009, *Three Orange Carrots*, 2012 and *Three White Carrots*, 2015, were selected as winning artworks in the [Big-i Art Project](#)'s fifth open call. Read more about Reyes' work in Larry Rinder's article "[A Carrot is a Carrot](#)" in Raw Vision, Gabriella Angeleti's feature, "[Connection to Art through the Creation Process for Three Self-Taught Artists](#)," and in Sophia Cosmadopoulos' "[Life's a Bunch of Carrots: The Life and Habits of Evelyn Reyes](#)", both in Brut Force. Recently, Reyes' iconic "carrots" were featured in *6 Women* at Stanton Hotel (Miami Beach, FL) during Art Basel, and *Five Women* at Outsider Art Fair 2019 (New York, NY).

**Lance Rivers'** (b. 1967, San Francisco) art practice emphasizes the idea, above all others, of the local as monumental. No aspect of the processes that make a city function escapes him, and the attention he gives to the beauty of simple, industrial compositions shows an authentic love for the Bay Area. "My work is about landscape, architecture, bridges, tunnels, and transportation. I am inspired by BART, MUNI buses, streetcars, and trains. I like nature, too. These things are interesting to me," Rivers explains. Rivers joined the CE studio in 2002.

Rivers was nominated for [SFMOMA's](#) prestigious [SECA Art Award](#) in 2016 and his has been exhibited internationally, including in prominent exhibitions such as the *People's Biennial* at Museum of Contemporary Art (Detroit, Michigan) in 2014, *Create*, a traveling exhibition that first opened at UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive in 2011, *Here, There and Everywhere* at Sheffer Gallery (Sydney, Australia) in 2015; and *Secret City Exhibition* at AIASF and Center for Architecture + Design Gallery (San Francisco, CA) in 2017.



*Red Charm* by John Moore, 1998, acrylic on canvas with found objects, 11 x 8.5 inches

## Two Others - About John Moore & Oliver Lee Jackson

**John Moore** (b. 1938, Vicksburg, Mississippi) moved to Oakland at the age of three and has lived in North Oakland since 1957. A prolific artist who eschews the gallery system, Moore rarely shows his work publicly. He was included in a group exhibition at Fiber Works Center for the Textile Arts in the late 1970s alongside contemporaries Raymond Holbert, Arthur Monroe, E.J. Montgomery, and Raymond Saunders; his work also appeared in a 2006 exhibition at Santa Rosa Junior College focusing on the collection of artist Mildred Howard, who curated both of the aforementioned shows. A monograph of his work with an essay by Nick Stone was published in 2018. Moore currently lives and works in Oakland, CA.



*No. 7* by Oliver Lee Jackson, 2018, oil enamels on gessoed panel, 23 x 23 inches

**Oliver Lee Jackson** (b. 1935, St. Louis, Missouri) is a painter, sculptor, draftsman, and printmaker, whose works are grounded in figuration. He has collaborated with musicians, writers, and dramatists who include Julius Hemphill, Marty Ehrlich, Quincy Troupe, Paul Carter Harrison, Michael Harper, and others. His works are in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art and Metropolitan Museum (New York, NY), National Gallery of Art (Washington, DC), Portland Art Museum (Portland, OR), Seattle Art Museum (Seattle, WA), San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, and numerous other museums. A

solo exhibition at the National Gallery of Art (Washington, DC) in 2019 features recent paintings. Since 1982, Jackson's studio has been in Oakland, California.

### **About Creativity Explored**

For the past 36 years, Creativity Explored has given artists with developmental disabilities the means to create and share their work with the community, celebrating the power of art to change lives. Located in the vibrant cultural and dining corridor that crosses 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 their art. The organization establishes these artists' work 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 16<sup>th</sup> Street in San Francisco's Mission District, and a second studio in nearby Potrero Hill. Gallery programming now includes five exhibitions per year, with more than 10,000 people visiting the gallery and studio annually.

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

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Images for *Five and Two Others* may be downloaded from the Press Room at the Creativity Explored website:

<https://www.creativityexplored.org/press-room/3777/five-and-two-others-curated-by-mildred-howard>

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