

OUT OF JOINT

**Yasmeen Abdallah, Levani, Louisa Pancoast,
Melissa Stern, John O'Connor, Ety Yaniv.**

Organized by Ety Yaniv.

The Boiler

191 North 14th st. Brooklyn, NY

April 29th – May 27th, 2023

Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday: 1 – 6pm



Levani, where the palms nest, 2022, nest, palm tree buds casted in pigmented resin and silicone, latex, minerals, quartz, pyrate, dimensions variable, courtesy the artist.

The Boiler is proud to present *Out of Joint*, featuring new work by five New York-based artists who examine how rapidly changing global processes—from ecological to socio-political—destabilize our anticipation of a recognizable future. Each artist scavenges for evidence of these amorphous, often invisible systems, and then laboriously transforms the physical materials and latent data into lush, site-responsive installations and richly patterned drawings. Formidable challenges like the COVID pandemic, with its social and psychological aftershocks, and the ever-escalating effects of climate change, represent two instances of these emergent processes: one acute, the other ubiquitous. Both breed uncertainty, and, in retrospect, seem inevitable.

Through playful juxtapositions of found objects, figurative sculptures, follies of language, and dance—the artists in *Out of Joint* utilize humor as a way to highlight the contradiction inherent in this feeling of inevitable uncertainty, and to gain agency over it. In addition, The Boiler space itself frames the premise of destabilization: on the one hand it's a majestic icon of an industrial past, and on the other, an obsolete architectural relic that feels more like an ancient cave. Each artist's work reciprocally engages with this space, either directly or circuitously, framing the architecture as a stand-in for the world at large.

Melissa Stern's whimsical, introspective, and idiosyncratic mixed-media sculptures are charged with urgent psychological presence—reflecting with dark humor on her need to be connected, along with her need to be alone as an artist during the pandemic. In his large-scale drawing, **John O'Connor** fuses personal communications with corporate speak, AI generated text, and fictional prose into a complex, optically patterned web that crystallizes the linguistic disorientation that results when we speak through things other than our mouths.

At the center of **Levani's** sculpture, a large nest hosts palm-tree buds and its casts in pigmented resin and latex. These objects can be easily mistaken for organs and cocoons, marking the porous frontiers of the ecosphere. **Yasmeen Abdallah** and **Ety Yaniv** combine disjointed used materials in their site-responsive and highly tactile installations, forming contrasting gravitational forces—Yasmeen's bright and airy pieces soar up a tall brick wall behind a suspended human-scale, hand-stitched soft sculpture, and Ety's hovering mixed-material mobiles spill dense clusters down to the floor—both installations resonate with disrupted ecologies. Dancer and choreographer **Louisa Pancoast** explores ways in which kinetic energy and a sense of duration advance some of the ideas latent in the visual work.

Forged from meticulous processes via an array of sensibilities—minimalist to maximalist, monochrome to color-blast—the artists in *Out of Joint* confront how their senses of reality have splintered into distinct episodes of seemingly nonsensical actions and reactions, which are then indiscriminately spliced together into new subjectivities. *Out of Joint* frames this liquidity as a tentative landscape, rendered from distinct yet interconnected perspectives. From Melissa Stern's probing self-exploratory terrains to John O'Connor's mapping of socio-political topographies, to Levani's, Yasmeen Abdallah's, and Ety Yaniv's fractured ecologies—the artworks in this exhibition visually elucidate a yearning to plan for a future so one can hopefully act in meaningful ways.



Levani is a Tbilisi-born, Brooklyn-based transdisciplinary artist. With queer ecology as a primary framework, they create immersive installations, sculptural objects, and images seeking the foundations for post-binary systems of relation and care. They hold MFA from Buenos Aires National University of Arts (IUNA) and a BFA from Tbilisi State Academy of Arts. They had solo exhibitions at Artists Alliance Inc. | Cuchifritos Gallery+Project Space, Marisa Newman Projects, and Georgian National Museum, among others. Their work has been shown at The Georgian National Gallery, The Bronx Museum of the Arts, Tbilisi Kunsthalle, Socrates Sculpture Park, the Beijing Biennial, and the BRIC Biennial. Levani's work is in public collections of the National Art Museum of China, Beijing; Georgian National Museum, Mestia; and Tbilisi Silk Museum, Georgia.

Melissa Stern lives in NYC and the Hudson Valley. She studied Anthropology and Art History at Wesleyan University. Her work is in a number of collections including The International Center For Collage, News Corp. Inc. JP Morgan Chase, The Arkansas Art Center, The Racine Art Museum, The Museum of Art and Design, and The Wiseman Museum in Minneapolis. Her multimedia project The Talking Cure has been touring the US since 2012, showing at The Akron Museum of Art, Redux Contemporary Art Center (Charleston), The Weisman Museum, Real Art Ways (Hartford) and The Kranzberg Art Center (St. Louis), and The Fuller Craft Museum (Boston). Recent solo shows include- Does She or Doesn't She (solo), Firecat Projects in Chicago, Ill. A 20 year retrospective entitled- STRONGER THAN DIRT, The Lockwood Gallery in Kingston, NY. HOUSEBROKEN (solo) gallery LTD, Brooklyn, CHAT AND CHEW (solo) DFN Projects, NYC.

Yasmeen Abdallah is an interdisciplinary artist drawing from the personal and the political through elements of memory, empowerment, trauma and resilience. She is interested in the stories told, and secrets kept by imprints and objects that speak to our contemporary culture. Creative reuse is a central point in Abdallah's practice, and her work is reconstituted from fragments of ephemeral moments. She received undergraduate degrees from University of Massachusetts, Boston in Anthropology with an emphasis in Historical & Collaborative Archaeology and in Studio Art with honors, as well as a minor in Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies. Abdallah earned a MFA in Fine Arts with distinction from Pratt Institute.

Louisa N. Pancoast has performed for such choreographers as Yvonne Rainer, Pat Catterson, Sommer Ulrickson, Ashley McQueen, Diego Funes, Pramila Vasudevan, Cleo Mack, Michelle Thompson-Ulerich, Emily Bufferd, Jacqueline Dugal, and Monica Hogan. Louisa's choreographic credits include Strange Girl Dances with Melissa Stern at Garvey|Simon, HouseBroken with Melissa Stern at -the gallery LTD-, Pinch Back with Evan Paul English at Main Window DUMBO, Purgatory produced by Plaxall Gallery, and First in Half, Then in Quarters, produced by Mixily Presents. She is the recipient of the /Art grant from Cornell Tech, and is the co-author of "Human-Drone Partnering for Dynamic Dance Performances with Increased Physicality" with Nialah Wilson-Small, PhD. Louisa holds her B.A. in English Literature and Art History from New York University.

John O'Connor holds an MFA in painting and an MS in Art History and Criticism from Pratt Institute. He attended The MacDowell Colony, the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, the Vermont Studio Center, the Celia & Wally Gilbert Artist-in-Residence Program, and was a recipient of two New York Foundation for the Arts Grants in Painting and Drawing, the Pollock-Krasner Foundation grant, and the Marie Walsh Sharpe Foundation Studio residency. John has been in numerous exhibitions abroad, including The Lab (Ireland), Martin Asbaek Gallery (Denmark), Neue Berliner Raume (Germany), Rodolphe Janssen Gallery (Brussels), the Louhu District Art Museum (Shenzhen, China), TW Fine Art (Australia); and in the US at Andrea Rosen Gallery, Pierogi Gallery, Arkansas Arts Center, Weatherspoon Museum, Ronald Feldman Gallery, Marlborough Gallery, White Columns, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Baltimore, the Wellin Museum, the Queens Museum, and the Tang Museum. John's work is included in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, Whitney Museum of American Art, Weatherspoon Museum, Hood Museum, Southern Methodist University, and the New Museum of Contemporary Art, among others. He teaches and co-chairs the Visual Arts program at Sarah Lawrence College.

Etty Yaniv coalesces material fragments into textured clusters which seem like abstracted landscapes from afar and reveal narrative vignettes from close-up. Her process reflects preoccupation with transience, ephemerality, and the possibilities in perpetual change. Yaniv exhibited in solo and group shows at the Haifa Museum of Art, Israel, Newark Museum of Art, NJ, Monmouth Museum of Art, NJ, Torrance Art Museum, CA, AIR gallery, Brooklyn, Purdue University, IN, Zero1 Biennial, San Francisco, and Leipziger Baumwollspinnerei, Germany. In 2022 her site-specific installation, Inversion, exhibited in Palazzo Mora at Art Biennale in Venice. Yaniv founded the online art publication Art Spiel. She also teaches graduate classes at the MFA program in the Pennsylvania Academy of Art. She holds BA in Psychology and Literature from Tel Aviv University, BFA from Parsons School of Design, and MFA from SUNY Purchase.

The Boiler provides equitable access to exhibition space, creative resources, and mentorship. In partnership with ELM Foundation, we offer our youth the chance to work with each exhibiting artist through our Steam Works series

ELM Foundation is a community-based nonprofit that promotes the healing and transformative power of the arts. Our methods include advocating the benefits of arts therapy, providing multidisciplinary arts education, and facilitating a nurturing environment for self-expression, all working together to form a regenerative creative collective.

