



WALKER FINE ART

300 W. 11th Avenue #A  
Denver, Colorado 80204 | 303.355.8955  
www.walkerfineart.com | bwalker@walkerfineart.com

## MODUS OPERANDI

Featuring:

DEIDRE ADAMS

BLAIR VAUGHN-GRULER

BEN STRAWN

MELANA BONTRAGER

LAURA GUESE

MELANIE GREIN

Opening Reception: Friday, July 22, 2022

On view through: Saturday, September 10, 2022

Every creator possesses a unique artistic language that works concurrently with their own medium and inspirations. MODUS OPERANDI presents artists who utilize this dialect to dictate the outcome of their work, allowing spontaneity, intuition and process to be the driving forces in their creations. Working within their own subconscious and guidelines, these artists focus on the creative process rather than the end result, thus finding freedom in the journey.

DEIDRE ADAMS' paintings are personal meditations in abstract form. She utilizes the formal elements of visual language to reference time and transformation, specifically to the ways in which surfaces are altered by external forces. Working in an iterative, intuitive process of personal discovery, Adams uses her initial marks on the canvas as a catalyst for response, making choices spontaneously and in conversation with the painting.

BLAIR VAUGHN-GRULER works in layered dichotomies: order and chaos, modernism and postmodernism, oil and water, black and white, planned and spontaneous. Similar to hand work like writing, sewing or knitting, repetitive mark-making activates endorphins and creates a record of successful mediations towards reconciling opposing forces within each piece.

The process of BEN STRAWN's development of image begins with the phrase, "I don't know." This mantra sets the stage for open source evolution of pictorial manifestation, and the movement of charcoal-in-hand draws in etheric emanations.

Exploring the daily connections that make up the human experience, MELANA BONTRAGER's latest works look specifically at the simultaneous existence of joy and grief/loss. Her pieces place a heavy focus on texture and line as a means for exploring the psychological idea of "both/and": the idea that multiple things can be true at the same time, giving room for a full range of simultaneous--and often conflicting--emotions rather than limiting the human capacity to linear, siloed experiences.

LAURA GUESE searches for simple moments of peace in our hectic, fast-paced world. Infinitely intrigued by the idea of being away from it all, lost in a place of hopeful tranquility, her latest work draws inspiration from the surreal feeling of standing on a mountain top and examining the surrounding land and sky.

MELANIE GREIN focuses her work on buoyancy, a visual upward force that resists and transcends the descending weight of worry that can creep into anyone's life. Exploring relationships of space, line, color and texture through means of land, sky and water, she offers a little whimsy and joy balanced with calm and solace in her latest series.

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An opening reception will be held on Friday, July 22, 2022, 5-8 pm at the gallery in the Prado building on 11th & Cherokee Streets in Denver's Golden Triangle Museum District. The reception is free and open to the public, and the artists will be in attendance. Visitor attendance will be limited due to the local COVID-19 restrictions. Please visit our website for sign-up session details.  
\*Opening details subject to change.

The exhibition is on view through Saturday, September 10, 2022 during regular gallery hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-5pm, or by appointment. For further information call 303-355-8955, email: [lgaron@walkerfineart.com](mailto:lgaron@walkerfineart.com), or visit: [walkerfineart.com](http://walkerfineart.com).

Walker Fine Art is a member of the Golden Triangle Museum District and the Denver Art Dealers Association. The gallery is located just blocks from the Denver Art Museum in the Prado building on 11th Avenue and Cherokee Street (entrance on Cherokee).