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Foundwork

**We are delighted to welcome
our latest guest curator:**

Alison Wong

**Director & Curator
Wasserman Projects
Detroit**



Alison Wong is first-generation Chinese American artist, curator, and educator born in Illinois and based in Detroit, Michigan. Wong is the Director + Curator at Wasserman Projects, a split for and not-for-profit arts organization focusing on supporting artists by bringing to fruition new projects that inspire discourse and meaningful engagement with audiences throughout Detroit. She is also the Founder of Butter Projects, Adjunct Faculty Member at College for Creative Studies, and serves on the board of several arts and cultural organizations in the region. As an artist, she primarily works in the field of painting and drawing, taking inspiration from everyday ephemera that is embedded with personal histories of love and loss.

For our guest curators program, Wong is highlighting artists [Katie Butler](#), [Sze Wai Wong](#), and [Marcos Castro](#). See examples of their work and Wong's insights on their practices below.

Katie Butler

b. 1995, North Canton, OH
Lives and works in Akron, OH
2021 MFA, Kent State University, Kent, OH



SB215, 2023

Oil and acrylic on canvas

62 x 50 in.

"I've long admired Katie Butler's work and was delighted to come across her profile on the Foundwork platform. On their surface, Butler's paintings seduce and satisfy with their rich tones and mouth watering subjects, while their distorted perspectives prevent the viewer from entering scenes, serving up a critique on the imbalances throughout our society. Overflowing with contradictions, each canvas contains a melting pot of high and low, historic and contemporary. Butler's work simultaneously attracts and repels the viewer, speaking to our values and desires in a world full of social and political imbalances."



State of the State, 2023

Oil and acrylic on canvas

66 x 84 in.

Sze Wai Wong

b. 1990, lives and works in Hong Kong
2020 MFA, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
2013 BFA, The Chinese University of Hong Kong



Where Azure ends, 2023

Ink, water-based colour, colour pigments and clay on canvas

47 1/4 x 47 1/4 in.

...because, my appreciation for the work was furthered by the unique processes employed. Wong creates natural pigments from clay bodies found in the Dung Huang riverbed and uses ancient mural techniques to build faded yet rich layers that evoke a sense of reverence. Combining the old with the new, Wong invites the viewer in a liminal space that feels both familiar and otherworldly. The stylized environments in Wong's paintings serve as a record of time passed—vessels for memories and the traces we leave behind."



Sacred doorways, 2023

Ink, water-based colour, colour pigments and clay on canvas

31 1/2 x 31 1/2 in.

Marcos Castro

b. 1981, lives and works in Mexico City

2006 BFA, Escuela Nacional de Pintura, Escultura y Grabado, Mexico City



Era una noche lluviosa, pero no era de noche ni estaba lloviendo (t was a rainy night, but it wasn't night and it wasn't raining), 2020

Exhibition view

Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art, Rotterdam

"The thoughtful consideration of time and place in Marcos Castro's installations immediately struck me. Not only does he demonstrate a technical proficiency in his use of varied materials and mediums, but the subjects and themes depicted connect so strongly to the locations in which the exhibitions are mounted. The works call upon historical as well as personal references, creating a range of entry points and associations to each of the elements that make up the entire experience. Holistically, it speaks to our understanding of the present through a reflection of the past and speculative look to the future."



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