

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – July 10, 2026

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SEATTLE, WA

AMcE Creative Arts, 612 19th Ave E, Seattle, WA 98112

Self. Reflexive. - a collection of paintings and drawings exploring inner realms in specific and ambiguous terms. The exhibition will also feature a create-your-own-narrative-painting, interactive installation in the front gallery.

Featured artists are [Ian Brownlee](#), [Gegam Kacherian](#), [Michael Lazarus](#), and [Kaoru Mansour](#).

Show dates: August 15 – September 27, 2026

Media/private preview: Saturday, August 15, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m

Public reception: Sunday, August 16, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m

About the artists:

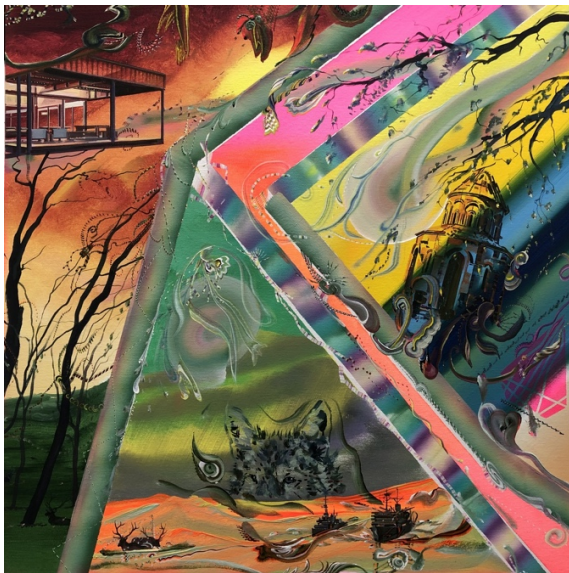


Ian Brownlee, *Happy Birthday*, 2026, oil on canvas, 64 x 42 in.

[Ian Brownlee](#) is a storyteller whose figurative paintings autobiographically explore significant life events, with enough ambiguity and allegory to become universal tales. The paintings utilize multiple styles and genres, including American folk and Buddhist art. Ian will also have an interactive painting installation in the gallery's front windows, where guests are invited to collage their own narrative works using a collection of Ian's cutout figures and shapes.



Ian received his MFA from the University of Washington, Seattle, WA, in 2025, and his BFA from the Atlanta College of Art, Atlanta, GA, in 1999. He has exhibited his work in shows across the country, including New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. Ian also recently returned from an artist residency in Rajasthan, India. Ian lives and works in Seattle, WA.

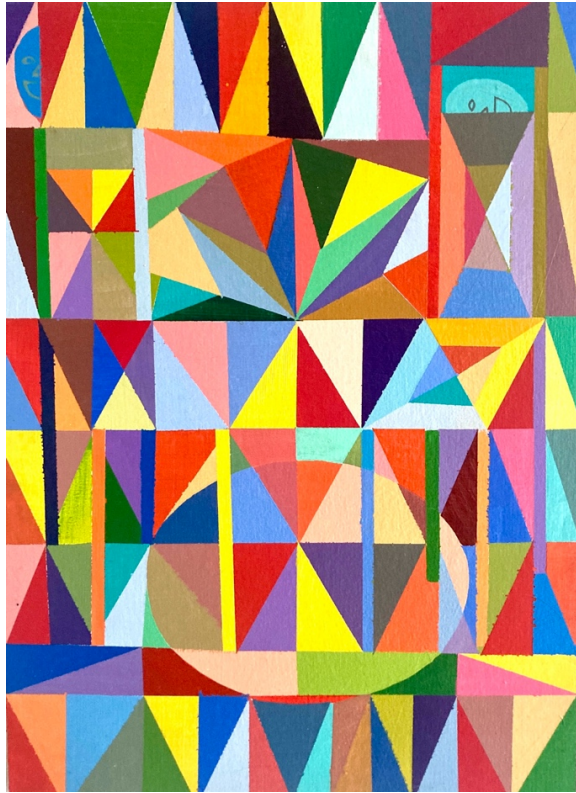


Gegam Kacherian, *Time Out of Place*, 2023, acrylic on canvas, 30 x 30 in.

[Gegam Kacherian](#)'s work melds representation and abstraction in atmospheric, dreamlike skiescapes that serve as vivid, otherworldly backdrops for his surreal imagery. Accented by colorful flourishes and cosmic swirls, deftly rendered animals, buildings, automobiles, and humans float, perch, dance, swirl, and swim on the canvas like random thoughts drifting by during the stillness of meditation.

Gegam was born in Yerevan, Armenia, and received a BFA from Terlemezian Fine Arts College. After graduating, his work was featured at the Museum of the Artists' Union in Yerevan, Armenia, followed by venues in Russia and Paris. He relocated to Los Angeles, CA, in 2000 and had his first solo show in the US with the nonprofit Gallery 825/LAAA Annex, Bergamot Station, Santa Monica, CA. From 2008 to 2016,

Gegam was represented by Rosamund Felsen Gallery. His exhibitions have been reviewed in [Art In America](#), *The Los Angeles Times*, and *Artillery Magazine*, among others. Exhibitions include the Museum of Modern Art of Medellín, Colombia, the Belgrade Museum of Contemporary Art, Serbia, the Tennis Palace Art Museum, Helsinki, and Stichting Kaus Australis, Rotterdam. As part of their permanent collection, his work has been included in several exhibitions around the country in “Selections from the Frederick R. Weisman Collection.” His work is also part of the permanent collections in the MOCA of Thailand in Bangkok, the Museum of Modern Art of Medellín, Colombia, and the Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers University, New Jersey. He has attended artist residencies in Paris, France, Korea, Bangkok, and Thailand. Gegam lives and works in Los Angeles and Joshua Tree, CA.



Michael Lazarus, *Chair no. 2*, 2026, acrylic on wood, 22 x 16 in.

Using bright colors and a seemingly abstract approach, [Michael Lazarus's work](#) plays with contrasts of space, flatness, and figuration. The work also gives a cheeky nod towards portraiture, self or otherwise.

Michael received an MFA from the School of Visual Arts, New York, NY, in 1994, and a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1992. He has had solo exhibitions at Walter Galleries at the San Francisco Art Institute, Fairbanks Gallery at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Feature Inc. in New York, and ANP in Antwerp, Belgium, among others. His work has been included in group exhibitions at Andrea Rosen Gallery, MoMA/PS1, ACME in Los Angeles, Tang Teaching Museum, Parrish Art Museum in Southampton, Las Vegas Museum of Art, and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco. Michael lives and works in Portland, OR.



Kaoru Mansour, *Impatient*, 2026, colored pencil, graphite, paper on wood panel, 20 x 16 in.

With [Kaoru Mansour](#)'s mixed-media illustrations and paintings, you get the sense that you are peeking into the artist's unconscious or one of her vivid dreamscapes. There is a diarist quality to the work that visually percolates aha moments and dreamy reminiscence. The works are quirky and playful yet carry a compelling heft.

Kaoru grew up in a small village in Hyogo prefecture, Japan. In 1986, she moved to Southern California and enrolled at the Otis Art Institute. She has been working as a full-time artist since 1994. Her work has been featured in museum and gallery exhibitions across the US and internationally, including in Italy, Japan, Singapore, Korea, Germany, and Thailand. Kaoru is included in extensive collections both nationally and internationally. Kaoru lives and works in Los Angeles, CA.



Aimee Hagedorn, *Flower Eye - Check*, 2026, cotton fabric and fiber, beading, 3 x 4 in.

In the Niche Market: [I Have Eyes for You](#)

AMcE is pleased to present a show all about eyes, featuring [Mary Anne Carter](#), [Trisha Gilmore](#), [Aimee Hagedorn](#), [Sonja Peterson](#), [Erika Rier](#), and [Paige Wright](#). This playful show features embroidery, tufting, glass, and ceramics.