

SAD Gallery
9761 3rd Ave. NW
Seattle, WA 98117
sosad@reallyverysad.com
www.reallyverysad.com

09/09/16

SAD Gallery is thrilled to announce our third exhibition, *PAULS WORK*, featuring Seattle-based artists Paul Komada and Paul Louis Nelson. Trained in the tradition of abstract painting, Komada has expanded into areas of sculpture, installation, and performance. On view for this exhibition, Komada's elegant, soft-sculptural forms use techniques of abstraction and knit-work, walking the line between craft and high-art. Nelson's work performs a similar balancing act. At once sincere and tongue-in-cheek, his pieces pull heavily from kitsch and craft while maintaining the meticulous presentation and display modes of contemporary art. Additionally, Nelson's background in photography remains evident in his focus on the recording and monumentalizing of time.

Puzzle pieces, stitching, layers of paint, each piece in *PAULS WORK* is a testament to hours spent, repeated motions, decisions made. Time-in and technique are laid bare for scrutiny. Using modes of production accessible to most, Komada and Nelson utilize, if not the ready-made, the ready-to-be-made in their respective practices. The mystery of production moves away from the 'how' into the realm of 'why', and 'to what end.' Through labor and deft handcraft Komada and Nelson elevate their materials, asking questions about worth, time, and what it means to work.

Paul Komada was born in Seattle and raised in Yokohama, Japan. In 2002, he earned his MFA at the University of Pennsylvania. From 2003-06, he worked at a buddhist temple as a monk in Tokyo, Japan. Today, he lives and works in an artist loft in Pioneer Square, Seattle. He has exhibited in and around the Northwest, as well as in Harlem NY, Peoria IL, and Miami Beach FL. Internationally, his work has been shown in Seoul, South Korea, Toronto, Canada, The Hague Netherlands, and Kobe, Japan.

Paul's work was included in the Bellevue Arts Museum Biennial in 2013, the Bellingham National Exhibition at the Whatcom Museum in 2015, and the NW Biennial "Art Now" exhibition at the Tacoma Art Museum in 2016. In 2014 a site-specific sculpture was installed on the UW Campus as part of a MADart organized exhibition, and a large-scale knit-mural installation was exhibited through Shunpike's Storefronts Project. Paul was a finalist for the prestigious Neddy Award in 2015 and 2016, as well as a nominee for the Northwest Contemporary Art Award at the Portland Art museum and the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Grant. Recently Paul was an artist-in-residence at the Vermont Studio Center.

Paul Nelson. I was born in Maryland, which is a coastal state, and spent time each summer swimming in the Atlantic Ocean and the Chesapeake Bay, both of which were filled with jellyfish. I received my BFA from the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York where I would swim in Lake Ontario, where the water was often warmer than the air. In 2011 I received my MFA from the University of Illinois at Chicago, where I would swim in Lake Michigan despite warnings of heavy pollution. Currently I live in Seattle, WA, another coastal state, where I mostly swim in Green Lake or the Pacific Ocean.

Past exhibitions include *Golden Hour: Thoughts on the Contemporary Photo Book*, at the Silver Eye Center for Photography in Pittsburgh, PA., *Old Weight*, at Julius Caesar, and *Lossy*, at Roots and Culture, both in Chicago, IL. In 2011 I attended the Acre residency in Stueben, WI, which allowed me to swim in the Kickapoo River. My hope is to one day show my work on the surface of the water in an above ground pool or at the bottom of the ocean.

A special thanks goes to the Art Up PhinneyWood organization.