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April 12 - 27, 2024

***Sense of Dwelling: Master of Fine Arts Candidates Exhibition II***

Gary R. Libby University Gallery + Gary R. Libby Focus Gallery, University Galleries, The University of Florida

[www.universitygalleriesufl.com](http://www.universitygalleriesufl.com)  
[Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)

Artists:

Chandler Damrill  
 Lexus Giles  
 Otari Oliva Buadze  
 Jeongmin Park (Gary R. Libby Focus Gallery)  
 Kenny Wilson

Dwelling is a multivalent word. It can describe a place. It can describe an action. That place can be a physical structure or a mental construct. That action can be oriented from different perspectives. You can dwell in a place, time, or construct, experiencing it from the center as it envelops you. You can dwell on a place, time, or construct, observing as it develops adjacent to you. We dwell in our homes in the present. We dwell on the past and on the future. Furthermore, while we all might hope to dwell in a happy and contented place in time, oftentimes we are forced to dwell in conditions beyond our choosing, forced to grapple with circumstance to secure a safe dwelling for ourselves and for those who come after us.

*Sense of Dwelling: Master of Fine Arts Candidates Exhibition II* presents mixed media works featuring painting, sculpture, photography, video, and sound that each explore in their own way the importance, power, and possibility to be found in an exploration of dwelling as place, action, and experience.

Chandler Damrill's archeologically inflected installation constitutes an "archive of the future." Presenting the remains of the life and work of a mysterious inventor extracted from an apocalyptic future, Chandler's work chronicles the persistence of hope in an inexorably doomed world. Lexus Giles' installation, shaped by PVC and ceramics made from Mississippi clay, places a spotlight on the ongoing water crisis faced by residents of Jackson, Mississippi. Lexus asks the gallery visitor to engage with the perspectives of a community that continues to be disrupted by the negligence of government institutions and a failure of public infrastructure. Through the conceptual framework of Abolitionist University Studies, Otari Oliva Buadze makes visible the burdens faced by graduate students under the university system in the state of Florida. In a bold combination of text and design, his prints emphasize the limiting effect of institutional demands on a student's capacity for social engagement. In her multi-channel video piece, Jeongmin Park investigates the difficulties to be found in navigating the boundaries of cultural perception and reception as a foreigner in the United States. Jeongmin's video projections focus specifically on the nature of language as barrier and boundary between different cultures. Finally, Kenny Wilson's large paintings that drape from the wall into the gallery space, make available for greater scrutiny the seemingly familiar. Drawing on memory and lived experience, Kenny's pieces make the wondrous nature of seemingly mundane space shaped by everyday objects harder to look past.

The works of each of these artists present the visitor with unique constructed environments that invite a dwelling on notions of lived experience, permanence, desire, nostalgia, and possibility.

### Exhibition-related Programming

To Be Announced

### Additional information

The graduate program in Art History at the University of Florida offers a global art history program covering a breadth of content from across time and space. The program also offers a graduate certificate in curatorial studies. For more information, please visit: <https://arts.ufl.edu/academics/art-and-art-history/programs/art-history/degrees-ways-to-study/>

### About University Galleries

The University of Florida University Galleries' mission is to be a platform for relevant and experimental art research and a place where pressing contemporary conversations are amplified and shared with the university and expanded communities. The UG advances the School of Art + Art History's commitment to the visual arts by offering an experimental space to bring people together around art and ideas, improving accessibility and inclusivity through direct student and community engagement; increasing the school's visibility as a center for critical discourse around artistic research, production, and scholarship, leading with preeminent programming.

University Galleries are comprised of three art galleries. Gary R. Libby University Gallery (GRLUG) provides the greater Gainesville community with a contemporary venue that explores new directions in visual art, incorporating historical perspectives. Exhibitions feature nationally and internationally known artists, studio art faculty, and MFA graduating thesis projects. The Gary R. Libby Focus Gallery and the Constance and Linton Grinter Gallery of International Art present art exhibitions that are organized by graduate student curators, in conjunction with the director of the galleries, allowing students to learn experientially about curation, organization, and exhibition making.

### Parking Information

Daytime parking is available in reserved spaces between Fine Arts Building C (FAC) and Inner Road. From SW 13<sup>th</sup> Street, enter campus on Museum Drive. Turn right on Newell Drive, then right on Inner Road. Turn left into the parking lot behind FAC. The first three spaces on the left are reserved for gallery use. Parking permits are issued to gallery visitors in the University Gallery.

For more information, please contact the University Gallery at (352) 273-3000 or visit our website at [www.arts.ufl.edu/galleries](http://www.arts.ufl.edu/galleries).

### About the College of the Arts

The College of the Arts is one of the 16 colleges and more than 150 research centers and institutes at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida. The College of the Arts offers baccalaureate, master's and Ph.D. degree programs in its three institutionally-accredited schools — the School of Art + Art History, School of Music and School of Theatre + Dance. The college is home to the Center for Arts in Medicine, Center for Arts and Public Policy, Center for World Arts, Digital Worlds Institute, University Galleries and the New World School of the Arts in Miami. More than 100 faculty members and approximately than 1,200 students work together daily to engage, inspire and create. The college hosts more than 300 performances, exhibitions and events each year. Faculty and students also exhibit and perform at other local, national and international venues. To learn more, visit [www.arts.ufl.edu](http://www.arts.ufl.edu).

