

## **May // Jessica Bovert**

Bio:

Jessica Bovert is a textile artist and weaver whose work explores memory, time, and labor through material, texture, and form. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Apparel Design from San Francisco State University, with a year of study in textile design at Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti in Milan, Italy, where her passion for fiber arts deepened. Her practice has since evolved from a background in design into a full-time engagement with weaving and textile arts.

Jessica's work has been exhibited in solo and group shows at venues including And A Tangerine Gallery, West Coast Craft, Heath Ceramics, Sylvan Gallery, and the Carmel Art Association, where she serves on the Board of Directors. Her pieces are held in private and public collections, including the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, Monterey Beach Hotel, and Sanctuary Resort.

Beyond exhibitions, Jessica is dedicated to education and community engagement. She teaches weaving workshops at institutions such as the Monterey Museum of Art and the Henry Miller Library in Big Sur. She has received recognition for her contributions to the arts, including an Individual Artist Grant from the Arts Council for Monterey County and a residency at Willow House in Terlingua, Texas.

Jessica's practice is rooted in traditional weaving techniques while embracing contemporary methods. She works with natural fibers, plant-based and industrial dyes, and cyanotype printing. At times, she integrates resin to sculpt woven textiles into structural forms, expanding the boundaries of weaving. Her highly textured, monochromatic works explore contrasts between softness and rigidity, permanence and impermanence. By integrating handwoven textiles with sculptural elements, she challenges the distinctions between craft and fine art.

Jessica Bovert lives and works in Carmel Valley, California.

[www.jbovert.com](http://www.jbovert.com)

<https://www.instagram.com/jessicabovert>

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## **June // Reese Fernandez**

Bio:

Reese Fernandez is a writer, dancer, and drag performer on Tovaangar (colonially Long Beach, CA). As a gender-fluid, and genre-fluid Pilipinx-American artist, they explore themes of identity in the diaspora, intergenerational healing, and embodiment. Their work focuses on re-indigenization in the spirit of kapwa and a deeper understanding of their roots to heal intergenerational trauma. As a movement teacher and artist, they aim to help others tell their stories and feel good in their bodies.

Reese's animated short film, *Seeing Lily*, is currently in post-production, and they recently directed a reading of their pilot, *Lola*, at Sacred Fools Theater's TGI2SFest. With a background

in hula, jazz, hip hop, ballet, and contemporary dance, Reese found a way to meld these mediums into pole dance, competed and placed in national competitions, and now teaches at Sadie's Pole Studio in Los Angeles. As a drag performer under the name *Reese S. Pianis*, they tell stories that play with gender roles and reclaim the expression of Asian masculinity, and have performed at venues ranging from local bars to the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles (Tovangaar). Reese also has professional experience in nonprofit grants and communications management and studied Geography at the University of California, Berkeley.

[www.reese-fernandez.com](http://www.reese-fernandez.com)

<https://www.instagram.com/reesespizzas/>

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### **July // Heike Liss**

Bio:

HEIKE LISS (\*1960) is a German-American artist. She works in a variety of media, including video, photography, drawing, sculpture, site-specific installation and performance. She studied Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Tübingen before attending Mills College in Oakland, California, where she received a Master's degree in Studio Art. Heike's award-winning work has been exhibited internationally in museums, galleries and at film festivals. She has collaborated with choreographers François Verret and Sonsheree Giles, composers Theresa Wong and Caroline Penwarden, multi-media artists Ellen Lake, Nomi Talisman, and Michael Trigilio, painter Soffia Sæmundsdóttir and poet Lyn Hejinian, to name a few. Since 2014 Heike is performing live visuals with Fred Frith, as well as other musical improvisers such as Ikue Mori, Lotte Anker, Thea Farhadian, Andrea Parkins, Shelley Hirsch and Bélangère Maximin. She has been a distinguished visiting professor for transdisciplinary art the Universidad Austral de Chile in Valdivia. Heike lives in the San Francisco Bay Area.

<https://www.instagram.com/heikeliss/?hl=en>

<https://heikeliss.com/>

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### **August // Kseniya Makarova**

Bio:

Kseniya Makarova is a Bay Area artist and designer with an independent creative practice. Her artwork celebrates the landscapes, plant-life, and history of the Bay Area and California, with a focus on color, flow, and embedded emotion. Kseniya works primarily in painting (watercolor, gouache, acrylic) and large-scale murals.

Graphic design is a strong influence in Kseniya's art—seen in her simplified forms, strong symbolism, clean visual flow, and veracity of line and form. Kseniya grew up in the Bay Area and considers it home, while also strongly identifying as a Russian immigrant—her family arrived in California as political refugees when she was a child.

Much of her art is a reflection of the belief that a close relationship to one's surroundings creates an inherent understanding of the interconnectedness of all things, and a sense of care and protection that overshadows societally-engrained ideas of over-consumption, hyper-individualism, and distracted, extractive culture.

Kseniya's work has been displayed at the de Young museum, Minnesota Street Projects, and San Francisco City Hall, as well as gracing walls around San Francisco and the greater bay area in public and private mural projects. She is a Senior Adjunct Professor at the California College of the Arts, where she also earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts with Distinction.

<https://www.instagram.com/kseniya.co/>

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### **September // Iris Jamahl Dunkle**

Bio:

Iris Jamahl Dunkle is a poet, biographer, and scholar whose work challenges the male-centric narratives of the American West's recorded history and amplifies the often-overlooked voices of women. Her new book, *Riding Like the Wind: The Life of Sanora Babb* (University of California Press, October 15, 2024), is a USA Today bestseller, receiving national acclaim for its poignant exploration of Babb's life and her fraught relationship with the literary history of the Dust Bowl. PBS producer Ken Burns describes the biography as "heartbreaking and heroic," bestselling author Kristin Hannah calls it "long overdue," and U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Hass lauds Dunkle as a "brilliant and vivid storyteller." The book has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Washington Post*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Millions*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Alta*, and many more. An excerpt describing how "Steinbeck mined her research for *The Grapes of Wrath*. Then her own Dust Bowl novel was squashed" appeared in *Salon* and sparked dialogue about Babb's unacknowledged contributions to literary history.

Dunkle earned her MFA in poetry from New York University and her PhD in American Literature from Case Western Reserve University. She is the author of two biographies, *Charmian Kittredge* (London: Trailblazer, Author, Adventurer (University of Oklahoma Press, 2020) and *Riding Like the Wind: The Life of Sanora Babb* (University of California Press, forthcoming), and four collections of poetry, including *West : Fire : Archive*, published by The Center for Literary Publishing.

Dunkle curates *Finding Lost Voices*, a weekly blog dedicated to resurrecting the voices of women who have been marginalized or forgotten. She has garnered recognition through awards and fellowships from esteemed institutions such as Biographers International, Millay Arts, and Vermont Studio Center, and her writing has appeared in publications like *Orion*, *Electric Lit*, *Liber*, *Pleiades*, *Tin House*, *Calyx*, *Fence*, *The Los Angeles Review*, and *Split Rock Review*. Notably, her work was featured on *The Academy of American Poets' Poem-a-Day* series and showcased on one hundred buses during the Muni Art 2020 campaign.

[www.irisjamahldunkle.com](http://www.irisjamahldunkle.com)

<https://www.instagram.com/irisdunkle/>