



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **JRB Art at The Elms Presents**

### **“Continuum: The Indefinite Progress of Existence”**

Oklahoma City—Beginning on September 3, 2020, JRB Art at The Elms will present its first generational exhibition. “Continuum: The Indefinite Progress of Existence,” featuring the collage paintings and three-dimensional creations of Denise Duong and Gabriel Friedman, as well as, the paintings of Rebecca Wheeler. The exhibition will be on display at the gallery during September and October and will also be available to view online at [www.jrbartgallery.com](http://www.jrbartgallery.com).

Instead of having our typical First Friday Opening Reception, we are offering [sign up](#) opportunities to see this extraordinary exhibition on Thursday, Sept. 3rd, Friday, Sept. 4th, and Saturday, Sept. 5th from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm! The gallery will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 11:00 am - 5:00 pm for the remainder of the exhibition, and by appointment - call us at (405) 528-6336, or send us an e-mail or Facebook message. All of our inventory can be found on our website. We encourage you to experience our wonderful new exhibitions!

The lives and activities of these three artists are intertwined in real life. Denise and Gabriel are artistic and life partners. Rebecca Wheeler is Gabriel’s mother. Denise and Gabriel are expecting a daughter in November. The art of each of these artists is a testimony to the continuum of creativity that has existed since the Lascaux cave drawings in Montignac, France about 20,000 years ago to the present time. The art that will be exhibited presents the narratives of each artist, documenting the development of the modern world, and giving us a glimpse of a utopian, environmentally balanced future.

**Denise Duong** is a nationally known narrative painter with a long exhibition history with our Gallery. Born in Oklahoma City of Vietnamese refugee parents she attended the University of Central Oklahoma before attending the Arts Institute of Chicago. In addition to her studio art, Denise is an accomplished painter of murals, which have become a valued addition to Oklahoma City's Public Art Collection. Since childhood, Denise has indulged her nomadic yearnings by creating her own imagined worlds from paper, paint, scissors and ink. In her colorful richly hued hyper detail collages, she tells stories of enigmatic adventures of love and life. In explaining her philosophy of creating Denise says: "I have a deep love for nature, adventure, exploration, and working with my hands. These things influence everything I do. Using different textures, different materials and processes entertain me. People entertain me. The world entertains me and thankfully I entertain myself."

**Rebecca Wheeler** has spent her entire life mastering the language of paint in her unique, intuitive, gestural style. She has always focused on the human condition, particularly the human condition of being female. Rebecca has an MFA from the University of Oklahoma and has studied at Southern Methodist University, the San Francisco Art Institute, the New York School in Paris, France, the University of Oklahoma and the Art Student League in New York City. Additionally, she has studied with some America's most important contemporary artists including: Elaine De Kooning, Carol Summers, Jose De Creeft and Nam June Paik. Her work is represented in private and public collections including: The Duchess of York, Sarah Ferguson, Warner Brothers Records, The Mondrian in Los Angeles, Hotel LaJolla and the Paul Ruscha Collection.

**Gabriel Friedman** began his artistic journey at Classen SAS. He has attended the Art Institute of San Francisco, the Boston Art Institute, and the Chicago Institute of Art. Throughout his life he has worked as a freelancer in design, writing and photography. In the 2000s he worked as a photojournalist in the skateboard industry. In addition to the more traditional art forms, Gabe spent a decade learning "maker" or building skills such as carpentry and blacksmithing. Recently, in collaboration with Denise Duong, Gabe created and installed the first public art commission, "The Unexpected Us" in Scissortail Park in Oklahoma City. The sculpture features a massive woven willow stick sculpture shaped like a bird, with a suspended light in the center, pulsing within a yellow orb. The sculpture is representative of Gabriel's lifelong goal of: "contributing to building a healthier, more open minded, magical and exciting artistic community for the next generation."

## **About JRB Art at the Elms**

JRB Art at The Elms presents a diverse roster of emerging, established, and internationally exhibited artists who create in a wide range of media including paintings, drawings, sculpture, ceramics, glass, fine crafts, functional objects, fiber art and photographs. This 8,000-square-foot award-winning gallery in Oklahoma City's Paseo Arts District changes its exhibits bi-monthly in a gracious environment that fosters a dialogue between the arts and the larger community while providing quality art for first time buyers as well as individual, corporate and museum collections.

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