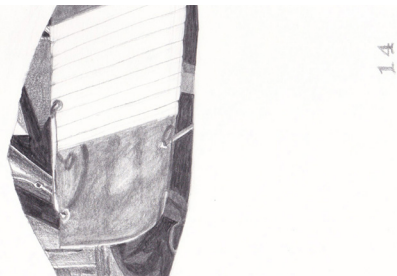


OPENING RECEPTION: **Thursday, October 6, 2016** from **6-8pm****REFORMED & REIMAGINED**

The Cluster Gallery is pleased to present **"Reformed & Reimagined"**, an exhibition curated by Christina Massey Brooklyn based artist.

Featuring works by **Christina Massey**, **Elise P. Church**, and **Jaynie Crimmins**, this exhibition explores the various and unique roles of re-purposed materials. Each artist finds something new and memorable in the forgotten, discarded and tossed away. There's a recognizable quality to all the abstract works, where hints of what and how the work was created reveal themselves.

The three artists, Christina Massey, Elise P. Church and Jaynie Crimmins, attended a month long artists residency at Soaring Gardens in rural Pennsylvania in May/June of 2016. The artworks in this exhibition were all created during that time and the months following. The influence of shape, style, experimentation and adventurous spirit seeped into one another's works, creating a new body of work for each artist. Each artist came with their own expectations, ideas and thoughts of what they wanted to accomplish and focus on, and as they spent the month eating, working, sharing their thoughts, ideas, concerns, worries and dreams together, inevitably the varied styles and approaches inspired each other's own processes and works as the month went on.

Christina Massey works use a combination of mesh, wire, re-purposed beer cans, paper, fabric, acrylic and enamel paints. These sculptural paintings were a break from her past work, freeing herself from the constraints of the stretched canvas "box", challenging herself to work more organically and with materials she hadn't used previously. The results are tactile, three-dimensional and very feminine forms that hang as sculptural reliefs on the wall. Traces of the labeling, support material and process remain visible while brushstrokes and painterly gestures cover the surfaces.

Elise P. Church choice to focus on drawing during the residency. She produced an impressive 50 drawings during her 4 week stay. Her past work had utilized photographs she had found at a flea market, cutting out subjects and inspired by the muted colors of the faded photographs. However, during her stay she decided to use her own family's old photographs versus others', and to remove the color entirely, using only graphite on paper. The irregular and odd "windows" formed from the holes of the past cut-out photographs become the framing for the new work, creating these portals to memories, titling the work after the hidden image versus what is visible through the frame.

Jaynie Crimmins uses her old junk mail and financial statements to create extremely detailed and small tactile sculptures. She decided during the residency to continue to work with her usual materials, but to let the surroundings and environment influence how the work progressed. She sourced and found dried pods and branches that she began to incorporate into the work, letting the random combine and be engulfed into her traditionally symmetrical style. The result was a new series that let her work become organic and stretch out of the box so to speak, branches breaking the edge and evolving into a long thread of work versus singular contained pieces.

Together the work has a specific flow. Pulling and pushing the viewer to observe up close and far away, to be intrigued by the materials and motives, to see the patterns of shape, texture and form translate the language from one artist to the next.

The exhibition will open on October 6th and on view through October 28th with an opening for the public on **Thursday, October 6th, from 6 to 8pm.**

The Cluster gallery is an artist owned and directed space located in the Gowanus section of Brooklyn. A part of the Brooklyn Art Cluster, which includes artist studios and an artist residency program, its curatorial program is international in scope and focuses on the contemporary arts.