

# M A T E R I A L   A N D   M E T A P H O R

Alisha Sickler Brunelli   Erika Mahr

Curated by Yeon Jin Kim

February 4 – April 1, 2023

Opening Reception: Saturday, February 4, 6-8pm

The Cluster Gallery, 540 President Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215



The Cluster Gallery at Playground Brooklyn is pleased to present recent work by Alisha Sickler Brunelli and Erika Mahr.

Through deep investigation of materials and process both produce works that explore how we make sense of our physical, emotional and psychological environment. A parallel concern is the nature of consciousness as the instrument of that exploration. Characteristics often thought incompatible or oppositional are subsumed within object/images that thrive on resulting tensions while yielding tenuous unities.

Mahr conflates strict geometric composition with dreamy, ephemeral surfaces in works that embody atemporal sensations of loss of self and of grounding, offset by moments of acute clarity.

Brunelli suspends both organic and geometric shape clusters in spaces they sometimes seem a part of and other times feel distinct from. The potential for meaning formation and enlightenment combine with dualities of containment and interconnectedness.

The works of both artists take onto themselves the characteristics of bodily existence in correspondence with emotional and psychological resonance.

Equally present in the work is the intimation of transcendent connectivity.

Alisha Sickler Brunelli is a multidisciplinary artist and designer who teaches at Binghamton University, State University of New York.

Erika Mahr is an artist based in Fishkill, New York and Chair of the Art and Design Department at Westchester Community College, State University of New York.

Yeon Jin Kim is an artist and curator who is based in New York City and Binghamton and teaches at Binghamton University, State University of New York.

The Cluster Gallery offers the opportunity to artists to show their work in a professional environment with the support of talented curators.