

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Natural Materials

Pancho Jiménez

Nnenna Okore

Cameron Welch

April 10 – May 8, 2021

#naturalmaterialsexhibition #jenkinsjohnsongallery #minnesotastreetproject
@pancho_jimenez @nnennaokore @welch_cameron
@jenkinsjohnsongallery @minnesotastreetproject



Cameron Welch, *Hot Head*, 2021, marble, glass, ceramic, oil, acrylic and spray enamel on panel in artist frame, 47.5 x 37.5 in.

Jenkin Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, is pleased to present *Natural Materials*, a group exhibition featuring new works by **Pancho Jiménez**, **Nnenna Okore** and **Cameron Welch**. This exhibition explores three artists' use of natural material and found objects in their practice. Each artist approaches materials differently creating a captivating discussion on materiality, texture, and shape. Jiménez rebuilds and recontextualizes found trinkets and objects. Okore weaves fibers and found material to create ethereal sculptures. Welch adds a contemporary perspective to traditional mosaic techniques with motifs and imagery found throughout history. *Natural Materials* opens Saturday, April 10, 2021 and will be on view through Saturday, May 8. The exhibition is by appointment only. Please visit our website to schedule a viewing. www.jenkinsjohnsongallery.com.

Francisco (Pancho) Jiménez (lives and works in Santa Clara, CA) explores the elusiveness of dreams and memory. Joining together molded forms in unlikely combinations, Jiménez transforms kitsch elements into complex pieces with a rich and relevant focus. The juxtaposition of shapes in his sculptures may at first seem haphazard, but is intentionally crafted to mimic the illusiveness of memory as it advances and recedes over time.

Jiménez holds an M.F.A. in Sculptural Ceramics from San Francisco State University, and his BA degree from Santa Clara University. He has exhibited extensively in the San Francisco Bay Area and nationally at universities, private galleries and civic spaces. His work is part of the permanent collection of the Crocker Museum of Art in Sacramento CA, the Autry Museum of the American West in Los Angeles CA, the Triton Museum of Art in Santa Clara, CA, the University of San Francisco and Santa Clara University. He was named an Artist Laureate by SVCreatives. His solo show at the Triton Museum of art was named one of the Ten Best in Northern California by art ltd. Magazine. He has been featured in Ceramics



Pancho Jiménez, *Rain*, 2021, ceramic, 15 x 16 x 2 in.



Nnenna Okore, *Living Example*, 2020, burlap, dye, and wire, 44 x 41 x 12 in.

Monthly and numerous publications including, "The Ceramic Design Book", "Extruded Ceramics" and "500 Ceramic Sculptures." He has taught courses at San Francisco State University, West Valley College and is currently a Senior Lecturer at Santa Clara University where he has been teaching since 1999.

Nnenna Okore creates abstract, richly textured wall sculptures from recycled materials. Okore's structures mimic the intricacies of the fabric, trees, bark, aquatic life, animals, and topography familiar from her childhood in Nigeria. Two works in the exhibition *Material Pleasure* and *Living Example* speak to the agentic and material nature of nonhuman forms and are a reminder to humans that the planet is fragile and needs constant attention and care by humankind. Okore's manually repetitive techniques of fraying, weaving, dyeing, and sewing recall her childhood experiences, where she watched and participated in daily manual activities like cooking, washing, harvesting, and fabricating brooms.

Okore, who interned for El Anatsui, the recipient of the 56th Venice Biennale Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement, is a Professor of Art at Chicago's North Park University, where she chairs the Art department and teaches courses in Art Theory and Sculptural Practices. Okore is received a Fulbright Award. She attended the Residency at Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. In 2021, Okore's work will be included in the Triennial Bruges (Belgium). Okore is included in institutional collections such as Newark Museum, New Jersey, North Park University, Chicago, and Indianapolis Art Center, Indianapolis. Recent exhibitions include the Memphis Brook Museum of Art, Memphis, the Children's Museum of the Arts, New York, Mattatuck Art Museum, Connecticut, Prairie State College, and N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, Detroit. Okore has been reviewed in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, the Chicago Tribune, Sculpture Magazine and the Guardian. Okore lives and works between Nigeria, Illinois, and Australia.

Cameron Welch's (lives and works in Brooklyn, NY) mosaic paintings explore concepts of time and history through recontextualized imagery. Created primarily with marble using ancient, traditional mosaic techniques and compositions, Welch borrows motifs from Art History and pop culture to reimagine cultural narratives. Icons such as cherubs, scrolls, grapes, and chalices are presented in a contemporary context. Welch reclaims images from histories that have been buried or appropriated. He thinks of his paintings as relics in and of themselves—they will last through the centuries, longer than a traditional oil painting, and become part of a continued dialogue.

Welch received his MFA from Columbia University in 2016. He was nominated for the Rema Hort Mann Emerging Artist Grant, and was the recipient of the 2019 One River School's Emerging Art Award. Welch's work has been featured in such publications as Vice, Hypebeast, and Forbes.

For more information on this exhibition please contact the gallery at:

415.677.0770 or sf@jenkinsjohnsongallery.com.

Gallery Hours: By appointment only