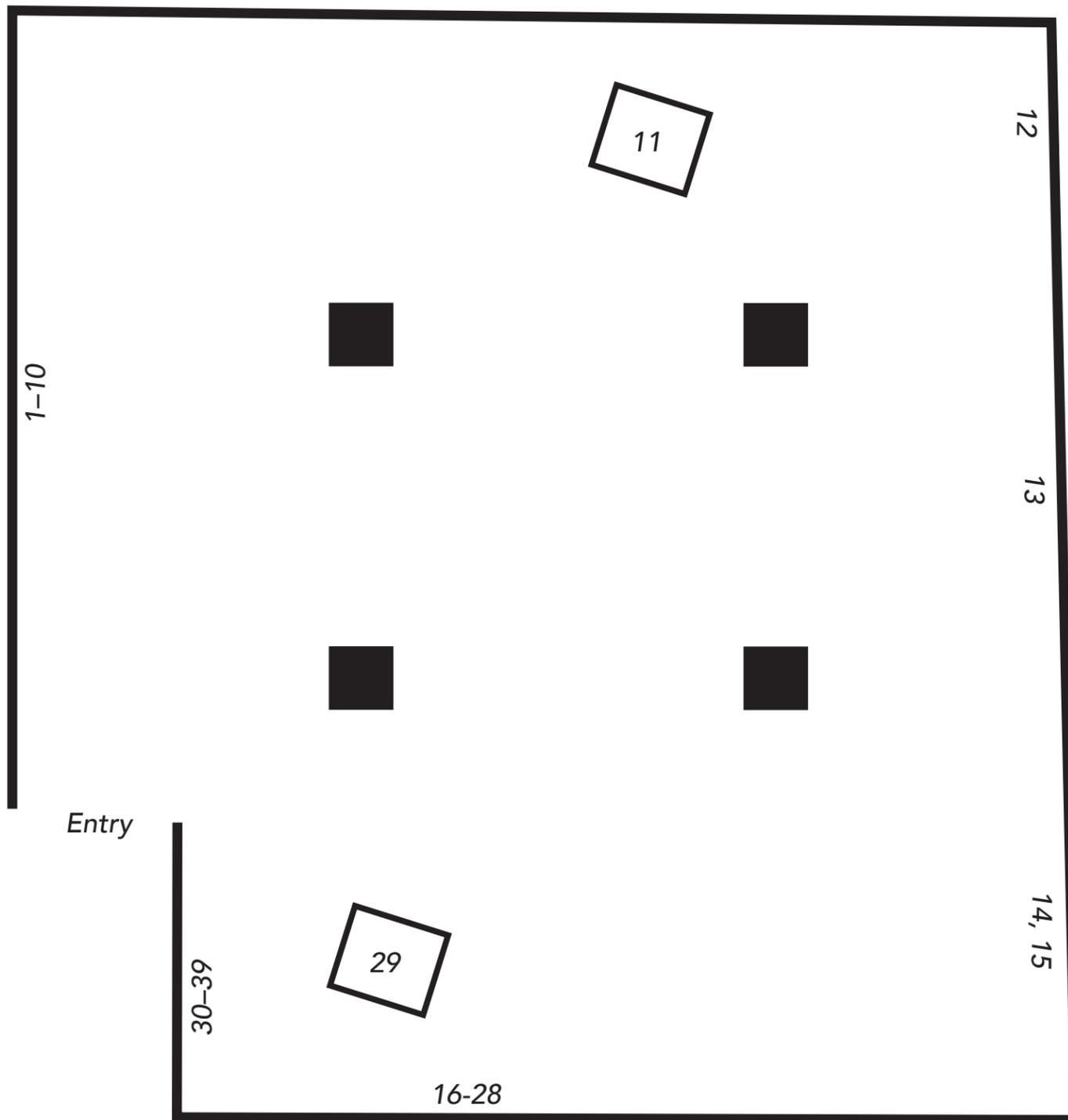


# GALLERY MAP



Please refer to the separate Works List for titles and materials.

# ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Conceived of in 2007, the Narcissister project combines the artist's professional dance training, her work as a commercial artist, and her longstanding visual art study and practice. She is identified by her mask, merkin, and mixed-race body. The masks she dons are repurposed wig display forms designed in 1965 by female entrepreneur Verna Doran. Narcissister's name and mask merge contradictions such as the shadow of narcissism, fetishized female beauty, the notion of sisterhood, and concerns beyond self. Her disguise distances her from the viewer and the consequent anonymity empowers bold gestures as a performer that are otherwise impossible.

Sexuality, gender, identity, and representation are ever-present in her works. In the collage and sculpture works installed here, she makes a pointed inquiry into the heady masculinity present in the canon of art history (in particular the early-to-mid Twentieth Century). The collages presented are from several bodies of work. The 2018 series Studies for Participatory Sculptures feature women or their body parts collaged onto, and sometimes into, images of works of art from prominent periods of art history including Modernism, Minimalism, and Abstract Expressionism.

The two bales of crushed aluminum cans from San Antonio's Monterrey Metal make reference to the Minimalist cube featured in many of the collaged studies. Throughout the duration of the exhibition, the bales will be activated by extra Narcissisters, as will The Face (Performing male facial features). Composed entirely of scrap metal also from Monterrey Metal, the face references monumental sculpture works by artists like Richard Serra and John Chamberlain, but Narcissister responds by making a work entirely activated by a female performer, rendering it static without the presence of a Narcissister. She wears a nose backpack and furry pants as the mustache and operates a pulley system to animate the face. The collage from the Studies for Participatory Sculptures series, which inspired the sculpture, is on view nearby.

Her other collage series created at Artpace during her residency: Everyday Cubism, Dog Show, and Portrait Session, combine traditionally salacious imagery intended to titillate with fairly ordinary people, settings, or things. In each of her new series, she presents hybrid figures made of numerous female body parts in unexpected positions and in sometimes absurd, exaggerated configurations. One nude figure standing in an idyllic garden smiles cheerfully at the viewer while across the gallery, male dog handlers at competitions proudly show their "purebred" canine-woman hybrids hoping for, or even better, boasting a victory.

Whether humorous, provocative, grotesque, or subtle, Narcissister's exhibition inquires into and upsets the normal understandings of power dynamics not just within the confines of identity and representation, but also fetishism and sexuality.

*Narcissister has created one of a kind "Porn Bags" collected from collage remnants found on her studio floor intended to inspire others to create their own mixed-media collages. They are offered for sale in the Artpace gift shop.*

## ABOUT <sup>THE</sup> INTERNATIONAL ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

Since 1995, Artpace has welcomed more than 230 artists through its renowned International Artist-in-Residence program. Annually, Artpace hosts three residencies, which each feature one Texas-based artist, one national artist, and one international artist, who are selected by a notable guest curator. Each eight-week residency culminates in a two-month exhibition on site. The mission of this program is to provide artists with unparalleled resources that allow them to experiment with new ideas and take provocative risks.

Artpace San Antonio is a nonprofit residency program which supports regional, national, and international artists in the creation of new art.

As a catalyst for artistic expression, we engage local communities with global art practices and experiences.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Support for the International Artist-in-Residence Program comes from Artpace members & donors and:

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# INTERNATIONAL

# ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

*Wimmin*  
Narcissister

Summer 2019 International Artist-in-Residence

In residence May 28–July 22, 2019

Exhibitions on view July 18–September 8, 2019

## ABOUT <sup>THE</sup> ARTIST

**Narcissister** is a Brooklyn-based artist and performer. Masked and merkin-ed, she works at the intersection of dance, art, and activism in a range of media including film, video art, and experimental music. She has presented work worldwide at festivals, nightclubs, museums, and galleries.

She won “Best Use of a Sex Toy” at The Good Vibrations Erotic Film Festival, a Bessie Award nomination for the theatrical performance of *Organ Player*, Creative Capital and United States Artists Awards. Interested in troubling the popular entertainment and experimental art divide, she appeared on *America’s Got Talent*.

Her first feature film *Narcissister Organ Player* premiered at Sundance and SXSW Film Festivals 2018, and she recently completed the Sundance Theatre Lab for the creation of a new theatrical work with playwright Branden Jacobs Jenkins.

artpace.org



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san antonio