



Providence  
College  
Galleries

pcgalleries.  
providence.edu  
401.865.2418

1 Cunningham  
Square  
Providence

Rhode  
Island  
02918

For Immediate  
Release  
9.29.2021

CONTACT:

Elizabeth Corkery  
Communications Associate  
pcgalleries@providence.edu

*The Carriers: Joiri Minaya and Anne Austin Pearce*  
PCG's Reilly Gallery, Smith Center for the Arts  
October 27, 2021 – February 26, 2022

Opening Events: October 27th  
5pm: Artist Talks  
6–7pm: Public Reception  
Smith Center for the Arts



1. Joiri Minaya *Container #7*, 2020,  
Archival pigment print, 40 x 60 in  
2. Anne Austin Pearce *Sprout*, 2019.  
Courtesy of the artist,  
Image credit: EG Schempf

This exhibition features two artists—Joiri Minaya of New York and Anne Austin Pearce of California—whose artwork questions the colonial urges and histories around collecting, controlling, and exploiting nature and representation.

Minaya's ongoing *Containers*, a series of performative photographs on view in *The Carriers*, feature the artist in natural environments wearing bodysuits she makes out of fabric with designs representing tropical nature. Minaya's work often utilizes 'the tropical' as a critique of colonialism and as a means to locate and reclaim agency. Historically constructed by colonial desires, the tropical is now a kind of universal ready-made: decorative, interchangeable, and disposable branding. Minaya's inhabited exploration of the performativity of tropical identity as a product destabilizes and shifts historical and contemporary representations of imagined tropical identities.

Pearce's small sculptures on view in *The Carriers* exist somewhere between decorative glass vessels and emollient blobs. As if the after-effects of an oil spill, dozens of these art objects suggest humanity's endless suffocation and consumption of nature through containment. Natural debris like shells, sticks, and stones are embedded in each of the vessel-like sculptures, which appear at once ensnared and memorialized. Pearce's work often draws attention to the exploitative human tendencies to pull apart and collect the natural world while also building on definitions of eco-colonialism and empathy.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Providence College Galleries  
—Hunt-Cavanagh Gallery at  
Hunt-Cavanagh Hall  
—Reilly Gallery at  
the Smith Center for the Arts

Providence College  
Public Entrance:  
212 Huxley Avenue  
Providence, RI, 02918

Open Hours (During Exhibitions)  
Mon–Sat, 11am–6pm

Together, these two bodies of work engage questions surrounding ethics and aesthetics of contemporary ecology, as well as the assumed vessel that is humanity. The artists ultimately ask: What is consumed or preserved and under whose authority?

Joiri Minaya (b.1990) is a Dominican-United Statesian multi-disciplinary artist whose work investigates the female body within constructions of identity, multicultural social spaces, and hierarchies. She was born in New York and grew up in the Dominican Republic. She graduated from the Escuela Nacional de Artes Visuales of Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic, the Altos de Chavón School of Design, and Parsons the New School for Design. She has



Providence  
College  
Galleries

pcgalleries.  
providence.edu  
401.865.2418

1 Cunningham  
Square  
Providence

Rhode  
Island  
02918

participated in residencies like Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Guttenberg Arts, Smack Mellon, BronxArtSpace, Bronx Museum's AIM Program, the NYFA Mentoring Program for Immigrant Artists, Transmedia Lab at MA Scène Nationale, Red Bull House of Art Detroit, Lower East Side Printshop Keyholder Artist, Socrates Sculpture Park, Art Omi, and Vermont Studio Center.

Anne Austin Pearce (b.1968) is an artist whose work explores the natural world, especially as it relates to form, color, and ecosystems. Before receiving an MFA in drawing and painting at James Madison University, she was born in Lawrence, Kansas, and studied Studio Art at the Kansas City Art Institute, Brighton Polytechnic, and the University of Kansas. Pearce is currently Associate Professor of Studio Art and Director of Creative Arts Program at Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo, CA. She has exhibited at the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, KS; Corcoran School of Art and Design, Washington D.C.; Drawing Center, New York City; Museum of Art + Design Miami, FL; Daum Museum of Contemporary Art, Sedalia, MO; and Bradbury Museum, Jonesboro, AK; among other venues. Pearce is a 2012 Charlotte Street Foundation Visual Artist Award Fellow and has paintings in the permanent collections of the Nerman Museum of Art, Overland Park, KS; Spencer Museum of Art, Lawrence, KS; and University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO; in addition to numerous private collections.

*The Carriers* is organized by Kate McNamara, PCG's Curator at Large.

Partial support for this exhibition provided Eric 'Pete' Peterson (PC'86) and Theresa Cairns Peterson (PC'89). Partial support for related public programs provided by Providence College's Departments of Art & Art History, School of Arts & Sciences, and Black Studies, Latin American Studies, and Women's & Gender Studies Programs.

#### ABOUT PROVIDENCE COLLEGE GALLERIES

Providence College Galleries (PCG) presents exhibitions and public programs focusing on contemporary art, innovative artistic practice and interdisciplinary cultural activity. Operating within two gallery spaces and across Providence College's campus, PCG supports the educational, service and community-oriented mission of the College with dynamic visual arts productions, including those that foster audience participation, cross-departmental collaboration at the College, and cultural exchange at local, national and international levels. PCG ultimately strives to produce projects by artists and intellectuals who demonstrate how and why creative practitioners are vital forces in promoting diversity and shaping contemporary global culture.

For more information about PCG, visit [pcgalleries.providence.edu](http://pcgalleries.providence.edu).