



Providence
College
Galleries

pcgalleries.
providence.edu
401.865.2418

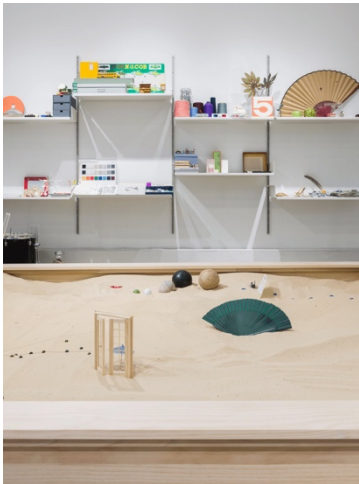
1 Cunningham
Square
Providence

Rhode
Island
02918

For Immediate
Release
1.27.2025

MEDIA CONTACT

Carol Stakenas
Director/Chief Curator
Providence College Galleries
pcgalleries@providence.edu



"Sandplay (Miriam BK)." Installation view. *Yo también me acuerdo (I do remember)*, Miriam Gallery, Brooklyn, NY, 2023. Courtesy Miriam Gallery.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Providence College Galleries
–Reilly Gallery at
Smith Center For the Arts
Providence College
www.pcgalleries.providence.edu

Hours: Mon-Fri, 11am-5pm;
Sat 11am-4pm
when school is in session.

Mirthe Berentsen & Martín La Roche: Sandplay
February 19 – September 13, 2025
Reilly Gallery, Smith Center for the Arts

Related Event:

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

5pm–7pm: Meet the Artists & Reception

[Providence, Rhode Island] Providence College Galleries is delighted to announce *Sandplay*, an ongoing collaboration between artists Mirthe Berentsen and Martín La Roche, on view at Reilly Gallery from February 19 through September 13, 2025. *Sandplay* explores the transformative value of storytelling and memories associated with tangible objects, posing the question: *How do personal objects shape our stories and connect us to others?*

The collaboration originated from their experiences during the Beautiful Distress Foundation's artist-in-residence program at Kings County Hospital in East Flatbush, Brooklyn. Their work interweaves personal narratives with explorations of the temporary and transient, reflecting on how we remember and describe moments that shape our lives.

At the heart of *Sandplay* is a participatory installation inspired by Jungian psychoanalyst Dora Kalff and her hands-on therapeutic method. The installation features a sandbox surrounded by an eclectic collection of objects—miniatures, toys, natural materials, and everyday trinkets. Visitors can arrange the objects in the sandbox, creating their own open-ended narratives. By embracing storytelling as a communal act, this exhibition seeks to foster meaningful connections and cultivate curiosity and care.

The exhibition also features individual works. Berentsen's project, *The Right To Be Forgotten* (2021), documents the process of emptying her family home through photographs, a table sculpture with ceramic objects, and "Story Stacks"—printed stories visitors are encouraged to take. This multi-media exploration of memory and loss, embodies both the elusive and tactile nature of memory-keeping. La Roche's "Gamma Colors" (2019), a reimagined color library created with participants in the Partial Hospitalization Program at Kings County Hospital's Behavioral Health Center, invites reflection on how we perceive and describe the world. These works further focus on the transformative power of storytelling, personal narratives, and shared artistic processes. The exhibition emphasizes multilingual accessibility with English, Spanish, and Dutch materials, extending its linguistic reach to resonate with various audiences and cultures.



Providence
College
Galleries

pcgalleries.
providence.edu
401.865.2418

1 Cunningham
Square
Providence

Rhode
Island
02918

Sandplay further aligns with a growing emphasis on holistic approaches in medicine and health care, recognizing the importance of mental, emotional, and social well-being alongside physical health. By inviting us into a multivocal creative process centered on personal narratives and shared storytelling, the artists seek to facilitate social connection and encourage a vision of collective care.

Berentsen and La Roche embrace the temporary and the transient to explore the gap between the tangible world and the words we use to remember and describe it. Their work uplifts the value of memories, the translation of personal experiences into shared narratives, and art's role in providing a collective platform to listen to each other and share stories that might otherwise go unheard.

Organized by Carol Stakenas, Director & Chief Curator of Providence College Galleries. For more information or to schedule a tour, email pcgalleries@providence.edu.

Funding provided by Mondriaan Fund and Providence College's Division of Academic Affairs, with in-kind support provided by Providence College's Department of Art & Art History and Physical Plant.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Mirthe Berentsen (1984, Netherlands) is a writer, artist and policy advisor. Her diverse educational background in literature, linguistics, art, and politics informs her practice, which is deeply rooted in exploring the intersection of language and care. Berentsen's upcoming book *We need to talk about the family* (Das Mag, 2025) examines the politicization of the family, alongside the crucial role of imagination and art in these contexts. In her podcast "between art & family", Berentsen explores a reimaged perspective on parenting, in conversation with prominent artists, writers and activists, such as Sophie Lewis, Hettie Judah, Lauren Elkin, and Camille Henrot. She is currently working on a book with artist Christine Sun Kim, about motherhood, Deafness, and the reinvention of (sign)language. Berentsen has contributed to esteemed Dutch and international publications, including *Art Asia Pacific*, *Modern Painters*, *Art Basel*, *e-flux*, *De Volkskrant*, *Die Welt* and *Spike* magazine. To learn more: <https://www.mirtheberentsen.com>

Martín La Roche (b. 1988, Santiago de Chile) is a visual artist who lives and works between Amsterdam and Santiago de Chile. His works often find their starting points from existing collections of objects or archives which he reassembles into installations, performances, or publications. His practice incorporates narrative elements, recombining ephemera, anecdotes, and individual stories as part of a larger collective memory. Notable projects include *Musée Légitime*, a nomadic art institution born inside a hat, *Good Neighbour*, an Amsterdam-based artist book platform and *To See the Inability to See*, an art collective devoted to triangular writing. His work has been featured in solo exhibitions: *Miriam Gallery* (Brooklyn, NY), *Museo de Artes Visuales* (Santiago de Chile), *Printed Matter* (New York, NY), *Manifold Books* (Amsterdam), and upcoming, the *Nassauischer Kunstverein* (Wiesbaden); and group exhibitions: *de Appel* (Amsterdam), *SALTS* (Basel), *Ludwig Museum* (Koblenz), *Josilda da Conceicao Gallery* (Amsterdam), *Parallel Institute* (Hangzhou), *Matucana 100* (Santiago de Chile), *P/////AKT* (Amsterdam), and *Lugar a Dudas* (Cali). To learn more: <https://www.martinlaroche.nl/>

ABOUT PROVIDENCE COLLEGE GALLERIES

Providence College Galleries is committed to museum-quality presentations of the art and artists of our times. Operating in two galleries, online and in public spaces across the college's campus and throughout Providence, we champion dynamic visual arts projects and initiatives that foster public engagement, life-long learning in the arts, and cultural exchange at local, national, and international levels. Providence College Galleries ultimately strives to engage artists, scholars, and audiences in ways that demonstrate how and why creative practitioners are vital forces in shaping contemporary global culture. For more information visit: www.pcgalleries.providence.edu

#