



Press Release:

MATERIAL INVESTMENT

September 9–October 16, 2022

The Bank, 42 N. Third Street, Newark, Ohio

Opening Reception: Sept 9, 5pm–8pm

Curated by Leslie Roberts

Each artist in this show is dedicated to particular materials, and each artist intently subverts or stretches those materials' properties and typical forms.

A sculptor once said, about wood and metal, "I always try to make something the way *IT* wants to be made, not how *I* want to make it."* These eleven artists have a less obedient spirit. They know what their component stuff wants to do, and they persuade it to do something else. Media include rags, sand, plaster, wood, ceramic, paper, discarded books, and wool. An artist may wrestle with a substance, or patiently coax it. They may displace it. Or dissect it. Or disguise it. Or connect it. They bend material to purpose and desire.

Vadis Turner melds ribbons and curtains into muscular forms. **Lisha Bai** casts striated "canvases" from colored sand. **Mandy Cano Villalobos** makes secular devotional artifacts from bundled household rags painted imitation gold. **Alex Paik** transforms bits of hand-colored paper into luminous, wall-spanning networks. **Amanda Love** tears discarded books down to spines that stand like sentinels. **Kevin Umaña** pieces together ceramic shards in relief-like hybrid paintings. **Ruth Jeyaveeran** stretches and rolls wool into delicate vessels.

In images made of dyed paper pulp, **Jeff Wallace** turns reclaimed books into records of personal memory. **Alisa Sikelianos-Carter** fuses photos of braided hair into mystical "crowns" that inhabit a resplendent world of Black ancestral power. **Tracey Goodman** floods a room with plaster to create a scenario of ominous absurdity. **Sean Desiree** uses wood inlay, not on a tabletop, but to map the Bronx project where they grew up. With the proceeds from sales of related works, Desiree funded a grant to support artists living in public housing.

The show is installed in a former bank. It's an expansive space, generously lent, and exuberantly occupied, by pieces that are, sometimes pointedly, in dissonance with the building's former use. Visually opulent works embody the opposite of material wealth. This once-institutional space presents views of home, society, and self that are anything but traditional. These resolute alchemists re-see, reimagine, and literally alter their worlds.

—Leslie Roberts, 2022

*Robert Guillot (1953-2020): [A Green Chair](#), 2020



Alex Paik, *Partial Octagon (Two Thirds)*, gouache, colored pencil, paper, nails, dimensions variable, 2022



Sean Desiree, *Marble Hill*, Maple, mahogany, ebony, spalted maple, sapele, and brass strips, 23 x 35 x 1 inches, 2020



Mandy Cano Villalobos, *Magnificat XII*, discarded clothing, fake gold leaf, string, 15 x 15 inches, 2020



Lisha Bai, *Rain Steam and Speed*, (L) & *Northern Sunrise* (R), sand and resin, each 48 x 30 x 2 inches, 2019



Ruth Jeyaveeran, *Bodies, Vessels, Remnants*, wool, yarn, sticks, dimensions variable, 2022



Vadis Turner, *Gorgon*, studio view: curtains, ribbon, gravel, metal leaf, acrylic, resin. steel, 72 x 72 x 15 inches, 2022



Alisa Sikelianos-Carter, *Black to the Future*, 18 x 11 inches, unique archival print, hand embellished with glitter, 2021



Amanda Love, *no words, detail*, discarded books, dimensions variable, 2022



Jeff Wallace, *Artists writers friends & lovers*, pigmented paper pulp from discarded books, each 14 x 11 inches, 2022



Tracey Goodman, *Sleepwalkers*, plaster, found objects, framed reproduction, dimensions variable, 2022



Kevin Umaña, *Cross Pollination*, ceramic, oil, acrylic, gouache, watercolor, sand, ink, and pastel on canvas, 12 x 10 inches, 2022

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Hours:

Fridays 5-7, Saturdays 1-3 and by appointment; call 773-456-1261 or email @amanda_love_studio,
or follow us on Instagram for updates @material_investment

About us:

The Bank is a community space in historic downtown Newark, Ohio, hosting art, performance, and readings. The building is managed by artist Amanda Love, who has curated numerous exhibitions and events in the space.

Leslie Roberts, curator of *MATERIAL INVESTMENT*, is an artist based in Brooklyn, and Professor Emerita at Pratt Institute.

Roberts, Love, and several other artists in this show met while residents at the Virginia Center to the Arts (VCCA), to which we extend our deepest thanks.

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