

new.now.26

On view February 7–March 14, 2026

Opening reception:

Saturday, February 7, 2026, 5–7pm

1353 U St NW, Washington, DC 20009



Mobile Work Station I, 2025, Mallory Kimmel.

Washington, DC: Hamiltonian Artists is thrilled to present *new.now.*, our annual group exhibition debuting the work of distinguished 2025–2027 fellows: **Diego Borgsdorf Fuenzalida**, **Chidinma Dureke**, **Mallory Kimmel**, **Behrouz Vatankhah**, and **Tara Youngborg**. Each year, *new.now.* serves as a snapshot of the newest Hamiltonian Artists fellows' creative practices, exhibiting the work they plan to expand upon during their two-year fellowship.

In this presentation of *new.now.*, each artist's work conveys a sense of adaptability; some take on an active exercise in troubleshooting. Concerns around displacement, machine learning, information access, and class disparity are met with ingenuity and radical imagination. Here, viewers are invited to consider: when there is not enough time in the day or sufficient resources to make do, how can we get creative? How might we use the tools at our disposal to circumvent constraints and carve out new possibilities rooted in equity, healing, and human connection?

Located somewhere between imagination and memory, Dureke's collaged paintings probe the interiors of her diasporic experience as a Nigerian-American woman raised in Prince George's County, Maryland. Kimmel works across bookmaking and found-object sculpture to interrogate professionalism, hyper-productivity, and the hostile conditions of late-stage capitalism. Exploring the metaphysical, Vatankhah's sculptural, abstract paintings reflect the tension between what is felt and what can be seen. Youngborg's video and cyanotypes on paper transmute environmental data into scenes where the natural world, digital systems, and historical record become entangled. Drawing from domestic life and craft traditions of his ancestral Chile, Fuenzalida's photographic *arpilleras* and weavings highlight everyday residues of the neoliberal, extractive economics Chileans face today.

The 2025–2027 Fellows were selected by an independent jury of arts professionals—**Patrick Bova**, director and co-owner of april april, Pittsburgh; **Fabiola R. Delgado**, independent curator and creative producer, Washington, DC; **Shaunté Gates**, artist, Washington, DC; **Edgar Reyes**, artist and Hamiltonian Artists fellowship alumnus, Baltimore; and **Emily Smith**, executive director of 1708 Gallery, Richmond. Visit Hamiltonian Artists' [website](https://www.hamiltonianartists.org) and follow [@hamiltonian_artists](https://www.instagram.com/hamiltonian_artists) on Instagram for information about corresponding public programs.



L to R: Mallory Kimmel, Diego Borgsdorf Fuenzalida, Tara Youngborg, Behrouz Vatankhah, and Chidinma Dureke

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Diego Borgsdorf Fuenzalida (b. 2002, Los Angeles, CA) is an experimental ethnographic researcher and textile artist based between Los Angeles and Washington, DC. His work addresses the affective dimensions of post-dictatorship life in Chile and the diaspora, using traditional Andean textile methods and enlisting materials critical in the formation of political violence in South America such as sheep's wool, copper, and salt. Borgsdorf Fuenzalida's work has been exhibited at Wolfpack HQ through the Estate of Luchita Hurtado and Lee Mullican, Los Angeles; Glen Echo Arts Park, Rockville, Maryland; IA&A Hillyer Gallery, Washington, DC; Room 3557, Launch LA, and Mile 44, Los Angeles. He was a 2024 Iburra Arts and Research Resident at the natural dye studio Blue Light Junction in Baltimore, and was a 2025 Bresler Artist in Resident at VisArts in Rockville, Maryland. They have published research contributions at the Museo de la Memoria y los Derechos Humanos, Santiago, Chile, and an artist book entitled *A House Containing* with Wolfpack HQ sold at Artbook at Hauser & Wirth, Los Angeles.

Chidinma Dureke (b. 1989, Washington, DC) works in painting, sculpture, and production design. Born to parents of Igbo descent, Dureke was raised between America and Nigeria. Her cross-cultural perspective characterizes her large scale oil on canvas paintings and sculptural installations that examine the liminal moments between two worlds and psychological spaces. Dureke has exhibited her work at The Peale Museum; Howard Community College; Yale University; Dwight Hall: Center for Public Service & Social Justice, New Haven, CT; Asian Fusion Gallery, Washington, DC; and Super Wonder Gallery, Toronto, Canada; among others. She is the recipient of the Liu Shiming Art Grant, 2023 Cohort, New York; Maryland Institute College of the Art 2024 Graduate Research Development Grant, Baltimore; and the ColorCreative 2023 Find Your People Program Fellowship in Los Angeles. Recently, her work was commissioned by Issa Rae and Denise Davis for the Sony Pictures film *One of Them Days*, directed by Lawrence Lamont, starring SZA and Keke Palmer. Dureke holds a BFA from Frostburg State University, and MFA from The LeRoy E. Hoffberger School of Painting at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore. Dureke lives and works in Maryland, where she serves as faculty at Maryland Institute College of Art.

Mallory Kimmel (b. 1995, Olney, MD) is an interdisciplinary artist, educator, and writer who makes socially engaged work addressing and eradicating exclusionary design practices in the built environment to make rest accessible to all. Her works have been exhibited in The U.S. State Department Inaugural Gallery; The University of Maryland; George Mason University; California College of the Arts; The Umbrella Art Fair; The Peale Museum; and Minnesota Street Projects. Kimmel's writing has been published by *E-flux*; The George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum; and BmoreArt Magazine. She has curated exhibitions collaboratively with The Phillips Collection; The Community College of Baltimore County; George Mason University; and Aggregate Space Gallery. She founded Do Less Press, a small press dedicated to artist literature on power, labor, rest, and healing. She teaches design at Lehigh University and serves on the Design Committee for the College Art Association. Her work was selected for residencies with The Nicholson Project; The Social Studies Residency; and the Outreach Artist Residency in the Arctic Circle, funded by the National Science Foundation and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Behrouz Vatankhah (b. 1985, Tehran, Iran) is an Iranian American visual artist based in Washington, DC, whose work transforms personal experiences of anxiety, displacement, and cultural transition into broader reflections on identity, human resilience, and belonging. He creates psychologically charged figures, spaces, and visual narratives that explore the intersections of emotion and memory. Trained in illustration and painting, and later in sculpture, at the University of Art, Tehran, Vatankhah builds on this foundation through a dynamic practice that blends painting and three-dimensional forms. Vatankhah has exhibited his work in group shows across Iran, Turkey, and the United States. Recent highlights include juried group exhibitions *Iteration Reiteration* at Touchstone Gallery, Washington, DC; *Tactile Expressions* at Frederick Art Center Gallery; and a feature in *FOA Magazine* (Volume 21). Earlier exhibitions include *Migration* (Cafritz Arts Center Maze Gallery, 2017) and *Uremtim Bandi* (Eskişehir, Turkey, 2015).

Tara Youngborg (b. 1989, Towson, MD) is a Maryland-based artist, educator, curator, and arts administrator. She holds a BA in Art and Art History from St Mary's College of Maryland and an MFA in Studio Art from Towson University. Her work uses digital technologies to create video and audio compositions that are combined into immersive installations that explore place, memory, and technology. She is also the manager of the Stamp Gallery and Studio A at the University of Maryland, College Park, where she directs the exhibition and educational programming and advises the Contemporary Art Purchase Program. Youngborg is a 2025-2026 Jack Straw New Media Gallery resident, was awarded second place for the 2025 Trawick prize, and was an Artist-in-Residence at the St Mary's College Artist House. She has presented her work in exhibitions at the George Washington Carver Center for the Arts and the University of Mary Washington Media Wall, and in group exhibitions in the United States and abroad.

ABOUT HAMILTONIAN ARTISTS

Hamiltonian Artists' mission is to nurture community and increase access to space, opportunity, and resources for emerging artists, through impactful programs and exhibitions.

The organization reaffirms and expands upon its originating vision as an incubator for the professional development of emerging visual artists, serving as a hub for Washington, DC's, creative economy and a vibrant center for contemporary art in the DC area. With its unique investment in emerging artists, Hamiltonian Artists provides resources to aid their development in important business skills, professional experiences, and visibility to support and sustain their art career.

Through the fellowship program, exhibitions, studios, artist talks, public events, membership program for art collectors at all levels, and so much more, the organization contributes to the vitality of the area's arts scene by deepening the appreciation for contemporary art and culture throughout Washington, DC, and beyond.

HOW TO VISIT

Location: Hamiltonian Artists, 1353 U Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

Hours: Thursday–Saturday, 11am–6pm

For more information visit hamiltonianartists.org.

CONTACT

For press inquiries and additional information contact Anisa Olufemi, director of programs and curator, anisa@hamiltonianartists.org

Images available [here](#).