

# TORY FAIR

## *PORTABLE WINDOW*

JANUARY 15 - FEBRUARY 28, 2021



The Institute of Contemporary Art at Maine College of Art  
522 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101  
[www.meca.edu/ica](http://www.meca.edu/ica)

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*Tory Fair: Portable Window* premieres Tory Fair's recent video, photography, and sculpture that frame new perspectives in collaboration and landscape. Inspired to steward some of the seeds that pioneering feminist Mary Miss planted as a sculptor in the 1970s, Fair opened an intergenerational dialogue with Miss and is guided by her priorities. Framing space usually helps to formalize composition, but these works frame in order to destabilize and disorient. The landscape tilts and turns. Fair's playful work opens up several platforms to listen and learn in an unprecedented time of pandemic anxiety and cultural upheaval.

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## PORTABLE WINDOW

In the last few months of adjusting to the pandemic, I've focused on work that has developed from an intergenerational dialogue with Mary Miss that I began in 2018. Talking with Miss in her studio has inspired me to steward some of the seeds that she planted as a sculptor in the 1970s. I am guided by her priorities: "Breathing space, human scale, and first-hand experience." Sculpture has the ability to give back and empower these fundamental rights.

Miss' early sculptures have inspired me to get out of the studio and work directly on site. I have been focused on reimagining one sculpture in particular, *Portable Window*, that Miss made in 1968. The sculpture is essentially a big plywood wheel with handles and a rectangular window in the center that frames a view. I have made a few variations out of reclaimed wood that I roll around my neighborhood, and as we moved into quarantine, a few smaller versions that I roll around my house.

Generating conversations, happenings, and videos from these rolls opens up several platforms to listen and learn in an unprecedented time of pandemic anxiety and cultural upheaval. The videos are an extension of the sculpture and capture what the sculpture is, in a sense, framing. This slow flipping is how I feel right now: observing calm, and even beautiful moments, but then seamlessly moving to disorienting and dizzy, a rupturing of the frame, uncertainty. Framing space usually helps to formalize composition, but these videos frame in order to destabilize and disorient. The landscape tilts and turns. What is once familiar is flipped and ruptured. Sculpture has agency to both engage our surroundings and to heal our collective body.

– Tory Fair

*Tory Fair: Portable Window* at the Institute of Contemporary Art at Maine College of Art from January 15 – February 28, 2021. The exhibition premieres new video, sculpture, and photography by artist Tory Fair. On February 18, 2021 at 5:30pm, the ICA will host a conversation between Tory Fair and pioneering environmental artist Mary Miss on Zoom. Learn more at [www.meca.edu/ica](http://www.meca.edu/ica).



**Tory Fair's** (Boston, MA) recent solo exhibitions and projects include Area Code Art Fair, Boston; VoCA Artist Talks; RAIR Residency, Philadelphia; *Middle of Nowhere*, Pine Barrens, NJ; *Portable Archive*, Drive-By Gallery, Watertown, MA; *Paperweight*, Gallery VERY, Boston; *Heap*, Proof Gallery, Boston; *Fortitude and Fragility*, LeRoy Neiman Gallery, Columbia University, NY. Recent group exhibitions include *You Are Here*, Worcester Art Museum, MA; and *The Intuitionists*, The Drawing Center, New York. Fair also has exhibited work at Socrates Sculpture Park, Long Island City, NY; and the Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA. Her work has been reviewed in publications including *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, and *Sculpture Magazine*, among others. She has been the recipient of awards from the Joan Mitchell Foundation, the Pollock-Krasner Foundation, LEF Foundation, and the Mass Cultural Council. Fair is Associate Professor of Sculpture at Brandeis University.



Image courtesy of the artist

**The Institute of Contemporary Art at Maine College of Art cultivates engagement and dialogue regarding contemporary visual art practices, aiming to foster discourse on the critical conversations of our time and to enhance understanding of visual culture.**

Located in stunning galleries in Maine College of Art's landmark Porteous Building, the ICA at MECA presents an exhibition calendar of ambitious work by living artists accompanied by public events and artist talks, operates as a learning laboratory for MECA students, and as a center for public programming regarding contemporary art that engages with the local, national and global art community.

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Installation photography: Joel Tsui