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## **REHEARSAL**

Curated by Mallory A. Ruymann | Los Angeles  
Cicely Carew & Sneha Shrestha, a.k.a IMAGINE  
1923 S. Santa Fe Avenue, Los Angeles, CA

Opening Reception: November 2, 6:00 - 8:00 PM PST  
November 2 - December 21, 2024

An artist's studio functions as a container for creative endeavors. Artistic gestures are repeated in private until—eventually and hopefully—the artwork is shown to the public. The artwork is generated and tested in the studio and then staged and displayed in an exhibition space.

This exhibition proposes the gallery as an extension of the studio practices of Cicely Carew and Sneha Shrestha, a.k.a. IMAGINE. A vital element of each artist's practice involves repeating actions that are simultaneously process and product. Emerging from a period of focused production, the artists will complete the exhibited artworks with and within Abigail Ogilvy Gallery. As the artists flex and bend to respond to the particular conditions of this site, the rehearsal of their work becomes tied to its final performance.

Cicely Carew grounds her practice in abstract painting—its history and potentialities. She approaches her work through improvisation, beginning any artwork with a material, an idea, a disposition, and/or a reference she then iterates from. Estranged from any initial context and reoriented towards two- or three-dimensional painting, the concepts embedded in the work manifest in unpredicted ways as they ingeminate, building out from, on top of, and around each other. Ultimately an anarchic strategy, Carew's making sets into motion indeterminate yet affirmative

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outcomes that are a faithful record of all stages of an artwork: idea, research, play, and result.

Sneha Shrestha, a.k.a, IMAGINE, uses a unique lexicon grounded in Devanagari, the script of the Nepali language, in public, large-scale murals and on canvas within the studio. Born and raised in Nepal and now based in the United States, IMAGINE's artwork stylistically excavates this specific alphabet within the artist's larger project of both celebrating and deeply considering her country, home, family, and culture. IMAGINE works in between, toggling between articulating lettering as an aesthetic metaphor as well as an actual system of communication. How IMAGINE's brush records movement demands precision; even the slightest change in her breathing pattern can profoundly affect the dynamism of her line work. Each final stroke encapsulates its practice, divulging the complete conditions of its making.

Together, these artists embrace the repetition of rehearsal and its all-consuming perspective into hazard and happenstance. Rehearsal presents these artists together for the first time.

*Curatorial Statement written by Mallory A. Ruymann*

## **About the Artists**

**Cicely Carew** (b. 1982, Los Angeles, CA) is a Boston-based artist, educator, and wellness coach. Carew completed her MFA at Lesley Art + Design and her BFA at Massachusetts College of Art + Design. Recent solo exhibitions include the Fuller Craft Museum (forthcoming 2025); ICA/Boston (2023); Fitchburg Art Museum (2022); Simmons University (2020); and Northeastern University (2017). Her work can be found in the permanent collections of the Fitchburg Art Museum, the U.S. Consulate in Chiang Mai, Thailand, the U.S. Department of State's Office of Art in Embassies

(AIE), Google, Fidelity Investments, Northeastern University's Archive, Cambridge Arts Council, and the Federal Reserve of Boston. Carew's honors include ICA/Boston's James and Audrey Foster Prize (2023); Brother Thomas Fellowship (2023); BYN Mellon Blanche E. Colman Award (2022); Cambridge Art Council's Art for Social Justice Grant (2021); and St. Botolph Club Foundation Emerging Artist Award (2021).

**Sneha Shrestha, a.k.a. IMAGINE** (b. 1987, Kathmandu, Nepal) is a Boston-based artist and educator. Education has always been at the forefront of IMAGINE's work, and her passion for it extends to her founding the Children's Art Museum in Kathmandu in 2013 and receiving her master's in education from Harvard University in 2017. Her murals can be found across the globe, and her studio-based paintings are in the collections of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Davis Museum at Wellesley College, MFA Boston, Worcester Art Museum, Google, Facebook, Fidelity, and more. Recent exhibitions include Cantor Arts Gallery, College of the Holy Cross (2024); The Rubin Museum (2024); Boston Children's Museum (2022); Simmons University (2019); and Distillery Gallery (2018). IMAGINE's honors include inclusion in WBUR The ARTery's 25 Millennials of Color (2019); recognition as one of the 100 most influential women in Nepal by the Nepal Cultural Council (2018); Boston Artist-in-Residence Award (2018); HUBWeek Change Maker Award (2018); South Asia and the Arts Fund Grant, Harvard University (2017); and Project Zero Artist-in-Residence Award, Harvard University (2017).

### **About the Curator**

Mallory Ruymann is a curator, art advisor, and art historian who works with emerging artists in all media. She is the Managing Partner of art\_works, an art advisory firm that partners with individuals and companies to build significant collections of contemporary art through a mission-driven lens. Her writing can be found in academic journals and local publications, including *Boston Art Review* and *Sculpture*

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(forthcoming). Recently, she has independently curated projects for Boston University Art Galleries, Praise Shadows Art Gallery, and Abigail Ogilvy Gallery, among others.

### **About Abigail Ogilvy Gallery**

Abigail Ogilvy Gallery is a contemporary art gallery located in Los Angeles. We exhibit contemporary art with a heavy emphasis on concept-driven artwork by emerging to mid-career artists located across the country and internationally. Owner Abigail Ogilvy Ryan founded the gallery in Boston in 2015, where the program ran for nine years. In fall 2023, the gallery expanded to Los Angeles under Director Kaylee Hennessey.

Abigail Ogilvy Gallery LA provides a platform for new perspectives and education through independent curation and artist partnerships. The collaborative approach upends the traditional gallery model and aims to enhance the careers of artists, curators, collectors, and other art world professionals, both emerging and established. The gallery program features guest curators in order to share diverse perspectives and voices with the Los Angeles area, while also showing solo and group exhibitions from the gallery roster.

Website: <https://www.abigailogilvy.com>

Location: 1923 S. Santa Fe Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90021

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and by appointment