

EXHIBITION STATEMENT

Outside, there is a global pandemic, climate change, and polarizing politics. Inside, there is our family of four working out the business of living through this moment with a terminal cancer diagnosis. While it may seem like everything is a make-or-break moment lately, we are flipping the script and using art to survive this time. Welcome to the Break-or-MAKE Exhibition by Stone Cloud Studio in Asheville, North Carolina at the Black Mountain Center for the Arts. This exhibit includes work by sculptor Todd Frahm, painter Lara Nguyen, and their children Atticus and Moon, who will debut some of their own work as well as some collaborations with their parents.

Break-or-MAKE asks us to see art as a way to freeze time, separate from the crises inside and outside our homes, and live in this moment. In living more fully in the moment, we may be better able to pay attention and care for our planet and each other. In this body of work, Todd Frahm explores our relationship to animals and the environment and advocates for its protection: "Through metaphor, I attempt to cultivate seeds of responsibility for and stewardship of the natural world." Lara Nguyen's work ranges in media and formats including painting, drawing, murals, installation, and performance. This work, especially her collaborations with her children, focuses on her wish to stop time. Her cancer diagnosis has also increased her sense of urgency around art. She says, "Access to art is extremely important to me. I want to contribute to a living and breathing museum for anyone and everyone, no matter their age, country of origin, or socio-economic situation. Art is for all."

Stone Cloud Studio has always been about our family making art. From that long-ago fall day in 1999 when a sculptor and a painter started playing frisbee by the railroad tracks next to the Glove Factory in Carbondale, Illinois, to today, twenty-one years and two kids later, we are fortunate to be making art our life's work, and we are grateful to see art at work in our children. At age four, Atticus inquired, "Can a goldfish live in a water balloon?" Also at age four, Moon asked, "Mama, who will cover me when I am dead?" Between life and death, between the absurd and the heartbreaking, we choose to make art, sharing our stories in hopes of creating opportunities for greater empathy. All we have is this moment now and we want to do something together.

Todd, Lara, Atticus, & Moon
www.stonecloudstudio.com
www.projectkittycorn.com

