

Love Letters

This exhibition is curated by Kendra Paitz, and the programming is supported by the Alice and Fannie Fell Trust and the Lori Baum and Aaron Henkelman University Galleries Community Fund.



Rafael Soldi

Bajo tu manto (from the series *Sentiment*)

2009

Archival pigment print, edition of 10 + 3 AP

Collection of University Galleries. Gift of the artist.



Rafael Soldi

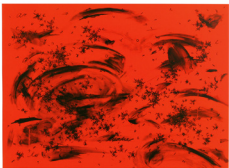
A step towards something I have yet to figure out (from the series *Sentiment*)

2011

Archival pigment print, edition of 10 + 3 AP

Collection of University Galleries. Gift of the artist.

Rafael Soldi donated both photographs following his 2024 solo exhibition at University Galleries, curated by Kendra Paitz.



Bethany Collins

"and love all hearts entwine (God Bless Our Sunday School)"

"and love all hearts entwine (God Bless Our Sunday School)" II

"all hearts beneath the sun (Let War's Tempests Cease)"

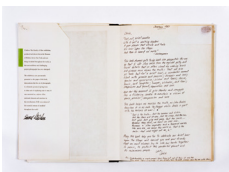
2022

Two-color lithographs, 10 numbered impressions each

Collection of University Galleries, printed in collaboration with Normal Editions Workshop



These three lithographs were made during a residency with Illinois State University's Normal Editions Workshop in collaboration with University Galleries for Bethany Collins' 2019 solo exhibition, curated by Kendra Paitz. The prints were also featured in her accompanying monograph published by University Galleries.



Jason Lazarus

Untitled (from the series *2004-Present*)

2010

Archival pigment print

Collection of University Galleries. Gift of the artist and Andrew Rafacz Gallery, Chicago.

This photograph was featured in Jason Lazarus' first survey exhibition, co-curated by Barry Blinderman and Kendra Paitz at University Galleries in 2011. The photograph was also featured in Lazarus' accompanying monograph published by University Galleries. The artist donated this work in 2023.

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EXHIBITION

Love Letters, an exhibition of works from University Galleries' permanent collection, features six photographs and lithographs by Bethany Collins, Jason Lazarus, and Rafael Soldi. The works include a variety of handwritten expressions of care, each composed for a different audience or purpose. The exhibition title not only refers to the correspondence that one may traditionally think of as a *love letter* but also plays with the idea of appreciating language: literally loving *letters* and what their combinations can convey.

The selected works demonstrate a range of artistic strategies that incorporate handwriting—whether written by the artist or someone else. Soldi performs for the camera, stages a still-life, and both shares and conceals intimate details from his own life. Collins researches, selects, and abstracts phrases from multiple historical lyricists. Lazarus makes a photographic portrait of a book that documents a massive international photography exhibition. Rather than featuring the cover or the images within, he focuses on one person's earnest statement about the exhibition's impact and a desire to share it with someone else. Together these works reveal some of the ways that we communicate, transmit, lose, or remember love.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Bethany Collins is a Chicago-based artist whose "conceptually driven work is fueled by a critical exploration of how race and language interact. Centering language—its biases, contradictions, and ability to simultaneously forge connections and foster violence—her works illuminate America's past and offer insight into the development of racial and national identities." Collins's work has been exhibited at Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver; The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York; Art Institute of Chicago; Seattle Art Museum; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; and Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg.

Jason Lazarus is a Tampa-based artist "exploring vision and visibility. His work includes a range of fluid methodologies: photography, found and appropriated images, text-as-image, photo-derived sculptures made individually and collaboratively with the public, live archives, film, video, LED light images, and public submission repositories, among others." Lazarus's work has been exhibited at MASS MoCA; Art Institute of Chicago; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco; Queens Museum of Art, New York; and Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago.

Rafael Soldi is a Seattle-based artist and independent curator. He uses video, photography, installation, text, and performance to, in his words, "reflect on masculinity, language, immigration, violence, and memory, informed by his queer Peruvian identity." Soldi's work has been exhibited at Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, Virginia; Frye Art Museum, Seattle; CLAMP, New York; Frost Art Museum, Miami; The Print Center, Philadelphia; Museum MATE, Lima; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; and the American Embassy in Barbados as part of the Art in Embassies Program.

READ MORE ON THE EXHIBITION WEBPAGE

