

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHY I MAKE ART

28 JULY - 26 AUGUST 2022

DIANA AL-HADID, BRIAN ALFRED, TRUDY BENSON, INKA ESSENHIGH, ANDREW KUO, GEOFF MCFETRIDGE, LIZ NIELSEN, MARGAUX OGDEN, CARL OSTENDARP, JAMES SIENA, JASON STOPA, and ANNE VIEUX.

NEW YORK, NY - MILES McENERY GALLERY is pleased to announce *Why I Make Art*, a group exhibition derived from the recent publication by Brooklyn-based artist, Brian Alfred. Gathered from the archives of "Sound & Vision," a podcast directed by Alfred, the book presents interviews with artists conducted between 2016 and 2020. Both the publication and the exhibition explore the practices and life stories of artists across multiple mediums. The exhibition opens on 28 July 2022 at 511 West 22nd Street and will remain on view through 26 August 2022.

"There are certain themes that recur for many of the artists I've spoken with in my time. For a lot of them, creativity entered their lives early. It often scratches an itch—boredom, loneliness, a desire to connect or entertain, to find validation or a feeling of worth—that children can have difficulty articulating with words. A lot of the time this instinct to create, visually, materially, is only understood in retrospect.



Brian Alfred, *Sill*, 2022, Acrylic on canvas, 60 x 50 inches, 152.4 x 127 cm

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Trudy Benson, *Rose World*, 2022, Acrylic and oil on canvas, 64 x 58 inches, 162.6 x 147.3 cm

This book is full of written portraits of artists. It's not about one thing in particular—theory or studio practice or their inspiration. It's about them as people in the world. An artist myself, I wanted to approach this compendium of portraits as an exploration, rather than a place to make definitive statements about the art being made today.

In the moment, when I'm speaking with an artist, the conversations fly by. Going back over the talks has been like watching a complicated movie for a second time; I've seen things more fully, with deeper context and richer understanding. It's also allowed me to slow down, reconsider, and ponder what's being said. I hope this book does the same for you." - Brian Alfred

Miles McEnergy Gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM and by appointment.

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Miles McEnergy Gallery

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