



PRESS RELEASE

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RE-MERGE, ART EXHIBIT BENEFITING GUILD HALL'S 90th ANNIVERSARY TO SHOWCASE FIRST NFT ART SERIES CURATED ON THE EAST END

RE-MERGE Art Opening **Thursday, August 12, 2021, 6-8pm** at [Kathryn Markel Fine Arts](#), 2418 Montauk Hwy, Bridgehampton, NY 11932 (Show on view until September 12, 2021)

Private Press Preview - Thursday, August 12, 2021, 5:00PM

Bridgehampton, July 20, 2021: In collaboration with **Kathryn Markel Fine Arts, HLK Art Group** presents RE-MERGE, a group exhibition of contemporary artists both locally and internationally-based, whose work utilizes new technologies to raise awareness about ocean conservation and ecology. In the outside courtyard, a curated showcase of digital NFT (non-fungible token) artworks in collaboration with online platform **UltrArt**, will be played on a large-format digital art installation. Viewers are able to bid on the art in real-time via their mobile devices--the first of its kind on the east end.

Through their work, artists explore sensitive existential topics while transporting the viewer to new dimensions of reality by combining aesthetic beauty with new technological means. Viewers are invited to reflect or meditate on the current state of Mother Nature and futuristic ideals of a new normal. Through the use of cutting edge new mediums from 3D modeling to augmented reality, they also manage to push the boundaries of art even further by presenting new ways of making and looking at art.

American artist, **Nicole Cohen**, who specializes in video and installation art, will debut her first NFT artwork, *Water Essential*. An animated image of water morphs in and out of shapes underpinning the element's intrinsic power and importance to human existence. Her video installation piece, *FreshWater*, also depicts liquified movement evocative of rituals of rebirth referencing Bill Viola's *Purification* work created for Peter Sellars' staging of a Wagner opera. It aptly summarizes a common theme throughout the show--rebirth and reemergence.



(image: Steve Miller, *Pour Me Another*, NFT 2020)

Sagaponack-based artist **Steve Miller**, whose work has been exhibited at the New Museum and the Florence Biennale, experiments across varying modes of multimedia to create visually stunning paintings, screen prints and sculptures. X-ray images of live animals are intentionally placed in context with their natural surroundings bringing to light the detrimental fate they face. His latest NFT, *Pour Me Another*, calls attention to his craft as a gentle reminder that “painting is not dead”.



(image: Tatyana Murray, *Willow*, 2020)

Also featured are two female artists-as-activists who wish to draw attention to ocean conservation, in particular coral barrier reefs--the “lungs of our planet”. British mixed media and light artist, **Tatyana Murray** meticulously etches classical images drawn from nature and the sea into layers of perspex which are backlit by eco-friendly LED lights.



(image: Aldara Ortega, *Coral Dream*, 2021)



Spanish underwater performance photographer, Aldara Ortega literally takes a more submerged approach and dives with her lens to capture perfectly timed, fleeting moments amongst coral reefs in Roatan, Honduras. Together, they present a timely conversation on ecology, climate change, the sublime and spirituality.

The digital artists hail from Canada, Russia, Iran, Hawaii, and the United Kingdom who include **Christine Davis, Olga Ozerskaya, Firouz Farmanfarmaian, Max Lemaire and Daniel Lismore**, respectively. As an added bonus, **Dan Simerman's ZED RUN**, a digital horse stable, will be included featuring his renowned and rarified Nakamoto digital horse breed.



(image: Olga Ozerskaya, *Blue Channel*, 2020)

While 2021 marked a time of frenzied gold rush for NFT artworks, there have been few attempts to merge the mechanics of crypto art with the physical art market. The hope for the digital art curation is to help demystify the new technology as it relates to Contemporary art by removing the hype and bringing the spotlight back on the artists themselves. Their art, whether digital or material, is emotional and powerful regardless of the medium they choose.

Viewers will have a chance to emerge from the experience with a sense of calm and resolution-- giving them the space they need to make peace with a new normal and lean into the seismic shifts taking place, either internally or externally. RE-MERGE is sure to bring viewers on a visual journey of healing and revivification in a post-pandemic era.

A portion of all net sales from RE-MERGE will be donated to [Guild Hall](#) in recognition of their 90th anniversary as well as the [Coral Restoration Foundation](#) and [WildAid Marine](#) to support efforts to protect coral reefs in Florida and Tanzania, home to several endangered marine species.

- > Timed screenings will take place throughout the month.
- > Most NFT artwork were minted on OpenSea, an online marketplace for crypto collectibles.
- > Select NFT works will be available on **Ethereum 2.0**, a more scalable, secure and sustainable version of the network.

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About The Curator

Art advisor and curator, Heidi Lee Komaromi, AAA has 19 years of professional experience specializing in Post-War and Contemporary art. After working at VIART, the first corporate art advisory, she founded [HLK Art Group](#) in 2001 managing and curating numerous art collections acquiring works by artists such as Andy Warhol, Agnes Martin, and George Condo. She has served as Director at Artnet and was awarded a curatorial grant from Affirmation Arts for Street Smart featuring artists such as Keith Haring and KAWS. Heidi currently lives in Sag Harbor.

About [Kathryn Markel Fine Arts](#)

Founded in 1976 by art dealer Kathryn Markel, Markel Fine Arts is located in Chelsea and Bridgehampton, New York. The gallery specializes in paintings and works on paper by mid-career and emerging Contemporary artists including Katie DeGroot, Steven Baris, and Sarah Irvin. The program is committed to showcasing artists renowned for their hard-won craft.

About [UltraArt.co](#)

Ultra Art is the first online exchange for fine art of all tech mediums with the mission to help artists gain exposure to a global community of tech-minded art collectors. Ultra Art's debut exhibition launching in Bridgehampton will feature a curated selection of crypto native projects and cutting edge artists.

About [Guild Hall](#)

Founded in 1930 after a dedication of land and financial gift by Mary Woodhouse, Guild Hall is a multidisciplinary cultural and civic institution based in East Hampton, New York and has become one of the first interdisciplinary centers in the country to combine a museum, a theater and education space in equal measure. Notable exhibitions featuring important American artists including Abstract Expressionists Jackson Pollack, Willem de Kooning, Lee Krasner and Robert Motherwell among many others have been showcased over the years. Guild Hall holds a permanent collection of 2,400 works of art and this year marks their landmark 90th anniversary.