

## **Orange County Center for Contemporary Art Presents heart of the matter, Solo Exhibition**

*heart of the matter* will take place September 7th-28th, 2024.

An opening event will take place on Saturday September 7th from 6-9 PM. The space is located at 117 North Sycamore Street, Santa Ana, CA.

Founded in 1980, the **Orange County Center for Contemporary Art** is an artist-run non-profit dedicated to the pursuit of professional excellence and freedom of expression in the arts. Each year, the historic building is home to a host of ambitious exhibitions showcasing contemporary artists. The organization has a long tradition of inviting outside curators to organize shows. OCCCA is located in the heart of the Downtown Santa Ana Artist Village; home to several galleries, artist studios, and an Art Walk the first Saturday of each month.

**heart of the matter** is Debra Vodhanel's first solo exhibition at Orange County Center for Contemporary Art. About her new body of work Debra says, "Painting intuitively and non-objectively, I use paint and wax to transform colors, textures, and shapes into images that I have never seen before that trigger significant past experiences, but reframed in a way new to me. I believe I paint about attachment, identity, and reparation of our fragile but resilient world. I work toward unwrapping the ideas that we can heal; that the world is getting better over time; that humans – the most vicious of all species - are innately good. That life is innately good. I look for a deeper imagining of what is real, what could be hovering just below our conscious identification."

**Why We Make Art? For accompanying exhibition** *Why We Make Art* Debra Vodhanel invited current and former OCCCA members to submit small works to be displayed in conjunction with the September solo show *heart of the matter*. The exhibit will be accompanied by a personal statement by the artist on the topic "Why I Make Art." These small works will be displayed during the run of the show. Each artist's written statement will be displayed alongside their work.

Participating artists: Stephen Anderson, Becky Black, Richard Bohn, Annie Clavel, Leslie Davis, Gianne de Genevraye, Jim Ellsberry, Jeffrey Frisch, Suvan Geer, Gina Genis, EE Jacks, Beverly Jacobs, Tom Lamb, Bella Marinos, Karena Massengill, Andrea Moni, Dalibor Polivka, Donnal Poppe, Annabella Pritchard, Robin Repp, Brennan Roach, Soheila Siadate, Gregg Stone, Mike Tauber, Carolyn Yarnell.

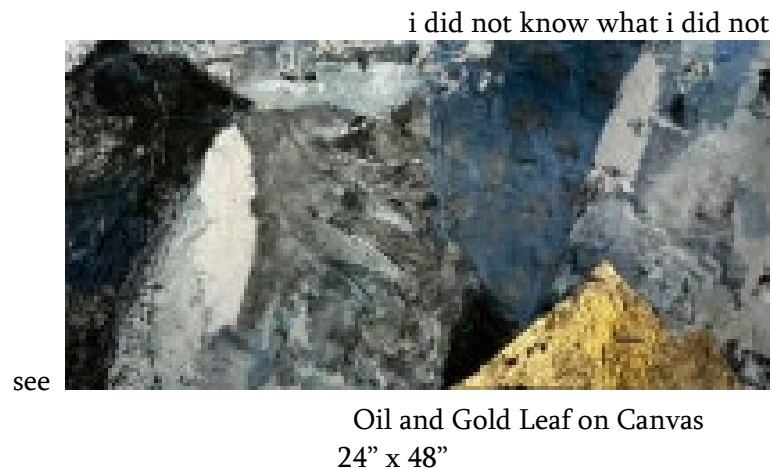
**Curator Rebecca Shippee** has curated numerous exhibitions under the umbrella of her curatorial project Triangle Projects, as well as independently. She served as co-curator of a two person show *Waterways* in the Skowhegan exhibition space in Chelsea, New York. She served as co-curator of a group show *Moved/Displaced* at Orange County Center of Contemporary Art in 2024. She is a graduate of Purchase College and Yale University.

#### **Selected Quote from Artist:**

"Painting unlocks a language descriptive of my inner life; usually ignored, and buried under everyday challenges and concerns. Rather than recreate recognizable images, I search for a deeper imagining of what reality may be. A reality which hovers just below conscious identification. I search for the wonder of who we are, reframe established beliefs, and look to find hope for the future."

**Debra Vodhanel** received training from Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Art Center College of Design, and Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts. She has exhibited nationally, including at Anna Gardner Gallery, Artist's Space, ArtShare, Brand Library Art Galleries, Gallery 825, Herron School of Art, James Turcotte Gallery, Joslyn Center of the Arts, Long Beach Art Museum, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles Institute of Contemporary Art, L. A. Woman's Building, Malki Museum, New Orleans Contemporary Art Center, Norris Theatre, and Occidental College. Her work has been reviewed in the Daily News, Los Angeles Times, and Artweek.

#### **Checklist of artworks for publication**



timeout



Oil and Gold Leaf on Canvas  
24" x 48"