

# Walter and Shirley Massey Chicago Scholarship Fund 2017 Report



School of the Art Institute  
of Chicago





Massey Scholars join Bank of America Scholars at the home of Walter and Shirley Massey.

The Walter and Shirley Massey Chicago Scholarship Fund provides need-based scholarships for undergraduate students from the Chicago Public Schools (CPS). Each awarding year, five ambitious CPS graduates are chosen to pursue undergraduate degrees in art and design from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC). Since it was established in 2012, the scholarship fund has supported 35 students from CPS. Of this recipient group, 10 students have graduated from SAIC and 25 are currently enrolled.

SAIC continues to expand its outreach to and admission of CPS students from neighborhood and career academy schools. For the 2016–17 entering class, Massey Scholars enrolled from Nicholas Senn High School, William Jones College Preparatory High School, Chicago High School for the Arts, and Whitney M. Young Magnet High School.

## WALTER AND SHIRLEY MASSEY CHICAGO SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Created in 2012 by John L. Thomson, member of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago's (SAIC) Board of Governors, the Walter and Shirley Massey Chicago Scholarship Fund provides critically important need-based scholarships to students from the city of Chicago. Thomson's gift has inspired a generous outpouring of donations from the SAIC community, increasing the fund and the number of students it supports.

The Walter and Shirley Massey Chicago Scholarship Fund provides full-tuition scholarships for undergraduate students matriculating from CPS. Coming from diverse backgrounds with demonstrated excellence in the arts, the Walter and Shirley Massey Chicago Scholars gain access to a world-class SAIC education. The scholarship provides them with the funding they need to become visionary thinkers, innovators, and scholars over the course of their undergraduate tenures at SAIC.

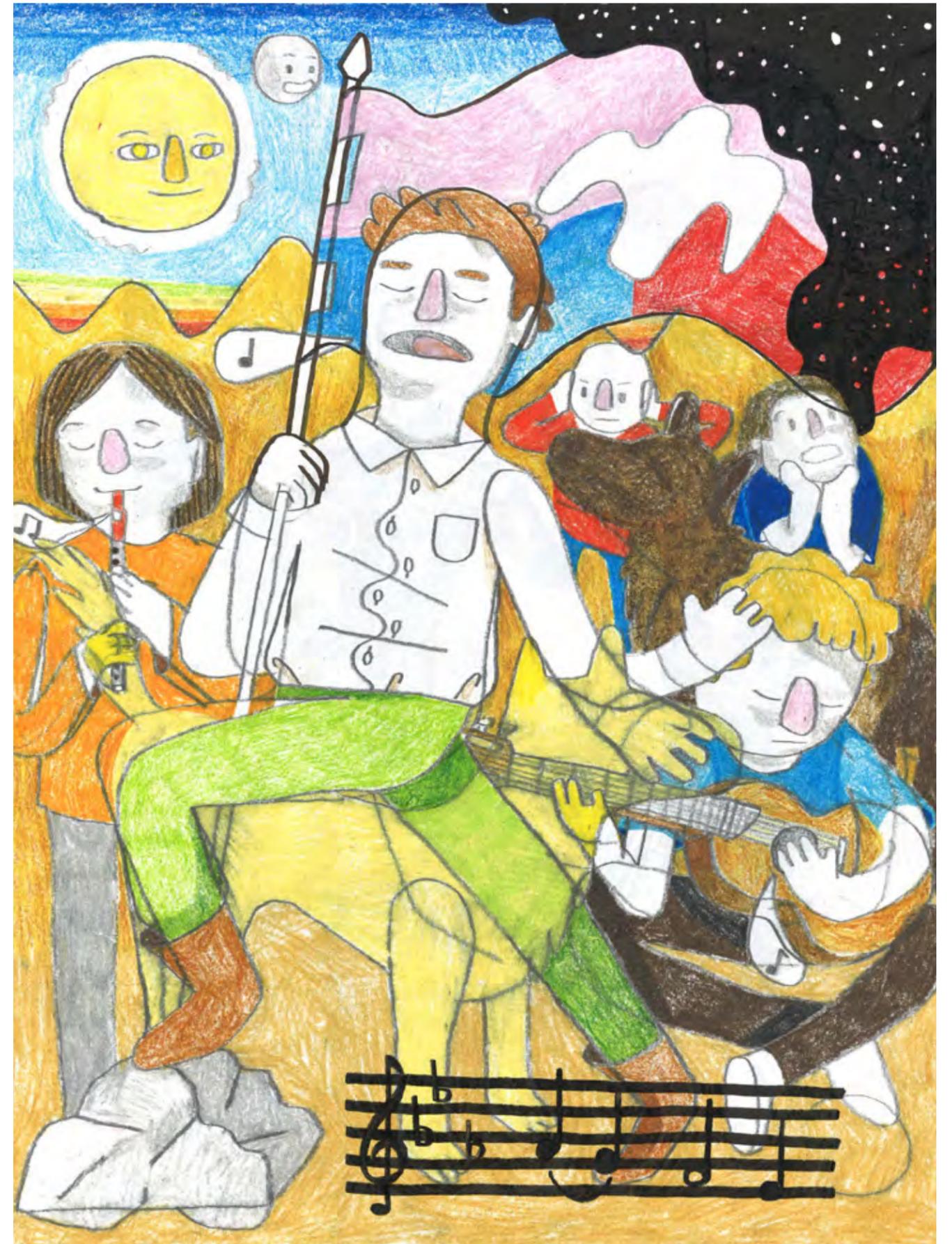
SAIC is committed to ensuring that the Massey Scholars thrive during the pivotal transition from high school to college and through their academic careers. Matriculating students are faced with new responsibilities socially, culturally, and financially, and SAIC recognizes that financial assistance is only one part of the holistic approach to the Massey Scholars program. Faculty, staff, parents, and students from across the School are positioned to serve as advisors and mentors, providing the scholars with guidance and support to succeed within SAIC's liberal-arts-centered art and design curricula.

This report introduces the five 2016–17 Massey Scholars and their practices.

## MADELEINE AGUILAR

The personal growth and artistic development I've experienced throughout this past year would not have been possible without the incredible support I've received because of the Massey Scholarship. I'm honored to be a part of the amazing community of artists here at SAIC, and I've never been more excited to go to school in my life! I'm so thankful for all of those who have invested in my future.

**My work is a reflection of the sense of wonder and curiosity that my parents instilled in me through the experiences, artists, and musicians they exposed me to. At SAIC, I've explored a range of mediums including fibers, sound, drawing, and film. But what remains a constant part of my practice is my interest in memory and storytelling. Moving forward, I hope to learn more traditional techniques and trades that involve working with my hands.**



Madeline Aguilar, *O praise Him*, 2017, pencil, ink, and colored pencil



Sky Bernard, *Dream #2*, 2017, oil on canvas

## SKY BERNARD

The Massey Scholarship has given me the amazing opportunity to pursue my love of art and get a degree without a lifetime of debt. It has relieved me of a huge amount of stress which helps me focus on my art and education.

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**I am a painter and I find this medium magical because contemporary painting is just as relevant and inspiring as the first marks made on a cave wall. In my work, I put the viewer in the role of the bystander so that they can become more aware of themselves as observers and activate their need to help end the violence in our world.**

## ALAN CORTES

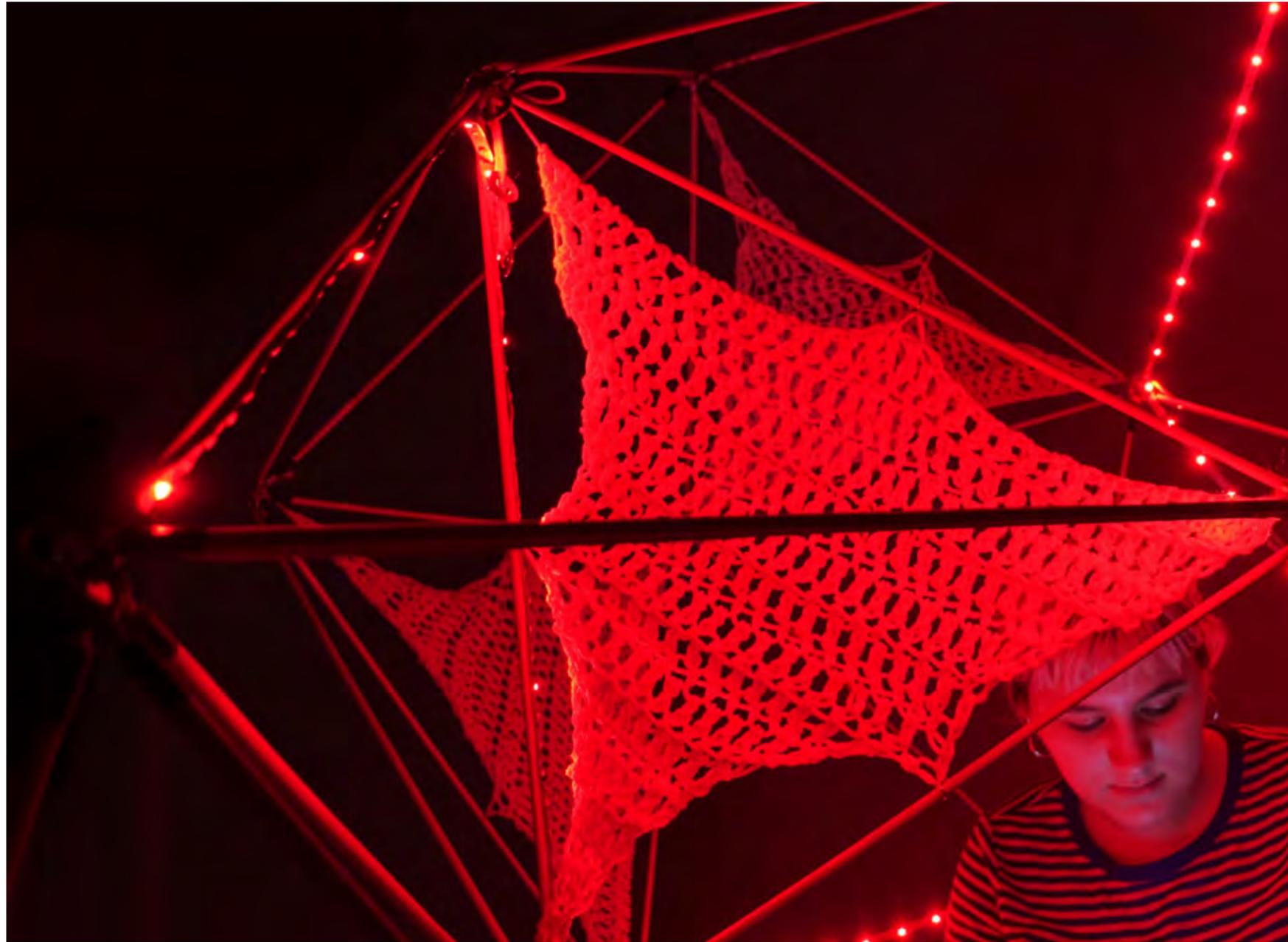
The Massey Scholarship has provided me with more in one year than I could have ever imagined. In this past academic year, I had the tremendous opportunity to engage in valuable discussions, work with advanced equipment, and have consistent interaction with the local art community. I am extremely grateful to have been awarded this scholarship, which has provided me with the opportunity to work among talented peers and educators in the city I grew up in.

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**Growing up in Chicago, I quickly developed an interest in the art communities. I frequented local bookstores, zine and comic shops, and drew inspiration from them, which inspired my career to pursue the sequential and illustrative arts. I graduated from the Chicago High School for the Arts, where I began my practice of illustrating small narratives that could be held and read by anyone.**



Alan Cortes, *Teratoma*, 2017, digital Photoshop



Myia Esper, *SO\_LU\_COON*, 2017, interactive sculpture

## MYIA ESPER

The Massey Scholarship has allowed me to explore opportunities that I otherwise may not have been exposed to, and without financial worries. I have explored new mediums, visited another country, and met people with similar interests. SAIC encourages me to explore and venture out of my comfort zone. Although my concentration has always been in fashion, during my first year I was introduced to new interests in visual communications and designed objects. I am thankful to those who gave me this opportunity to be a part of a space that supports, collaborates, and critiques, allowing me to be the artist and designer I imagine myself to become.

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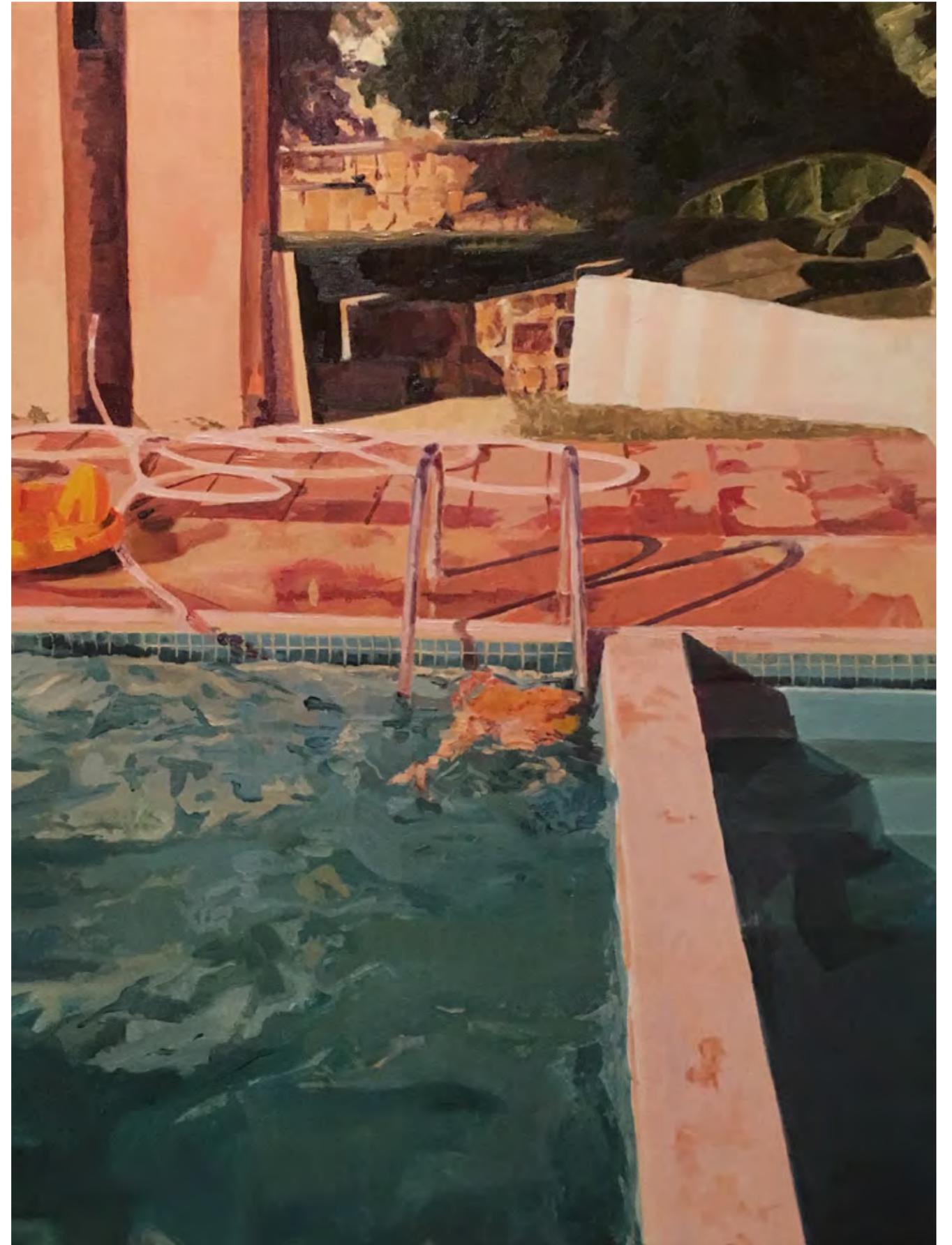
**My recent work has been centered around physical and emotional manipulations and explorations. I am often an outlier looking in, observing and interpreting the behaviors of others and myself. I focus on the process of making through repetition with alterations in each iteration. I create or deconstruct textiles to make new material, or I have interactive elements that are left for the user to determine its final form. The ultimate objective is to be able to represent and communicate the infinite changes in society and nature as I observe them.**

## DANIELA PEREZ

Receiving the Massey Scholarship lets me continue to be surrounded by amazing people who are driven to make work for a greater purpose. It allows me to build relationships with the resources and people toward this common cultural impact. The library is my go to inspiration, along with the many other resources that help me constantly shape my work through time and practice.

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**My art addresses social and marital customs and childhood rituals. A large part of my practice comes from family photos, government documents, and observation.**



Daniela Perez, *Keep Getting Comfortable*, 2017, oil on canvas, 24" x 30"

## CONTINUING SCHOLARS UPDATE

The continuing Walter and Shirley Massey Chicago Scholars are thriving within SAIC's interdisciplinary art and design curriculum. Here are just a few of their accomplishments from the past year.

### WHITNEY HINOJOSA

- Cultivating her passion surrounding fibers and fashion.
- Worked on brainstorming ideas for a line of garments that are meant to radiate cultural strength and pride as an everyday act of protest. She looks forward to aligning her studio classes with this project idea.

### ABDULLAH QUICK

- Has been working on a series of interdisciplinary, research-driven projects highlighting the cultural and structural aspects that make this city unique.
- Implemented a photo/video series following city workers from various local neighborhoods.
- Created a multimedia art piece using handmade radio transmitters to bring life to an abandoned factory.

### AMANDA MCLIN

- Self-published a chapbook titled *A Space in Time* through CreateSpace with the SAIC Publication grant she received in the spring.
- Was a semifinalist for the Screencraft Spring 2017 Short Film Production Fund for her film *The End of the Line*.

### ALEXANDRA TERRY

- Developing her focus on drawing and comics.
- Interned with comics creators that have helped develop her work.

## ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

A leader in educating artists, designers, and scholars since 1866, SAIC offers nationally accredited undergraduate and graduate degrees and post-baccalaureate programs to more than 3,500 students from around the globe. SAIC's distinctive character is conveyed in its core values, listed below.

### We Are Explorers

At SAIC, we exceed boundaries. Our commitment to an open structure is embodied in a curriculum of self-directed study within and across a multiplicity of disciplines and approaches that promote critical thinking, rigorous investigation, and playful creativity. We are a community that challenges the notion that any field is ever beyond rediscovery.

### Meaning and Making Are Inseparable

At SAIC, we believe that meaning and making are inseparable, existing as a perpetual and productive cycle driven by experience, research, and critique. Our commitment to a wide range of media and processes supports our assertion that the artist, designer, scholar, and writer are uniquely qualified as makers to provide leadership, creative perspective, and hands-on skill for shaping today's world, as well as contributing to its opportunities.

### We Are Artists and Scholars

The students, faculty, and staff of SAIC are engaged and innovative creators of art, design, scholarship, and writing. The faculty drives our curriculum, and each member brings the diverse experiences of their practice directly into the classroom and studio. Our students are viewed as emerging peers and full participants in the learning that occurs in collaboration with faculty and each other.

### Chicago

Our symbiotic relationship with the city radiates outward as students, faculty, and staff connect themselves to the diverse communities of Chicago and the entire world. The city's richness, complexity, and contradictions are the perfect environment for our own diverse community.

### We Make History

Our major encyclopedic art museum, libraries, special collections, and public programs create an unparalleled environment for maintaining a thoughtful and tangible relationship to history and the ways in which it is continually revisited and represented, fueling our innovation and experimentation and keeping our historical and critical discourse completely active. Students, faculty, and alumni of SAIC have made significant and groundbreaking contributions to the art, design, and scholarship of the 20th century, and continue to do so in the 21st.

For more information, please visit [saic.edu](http://saic.edu).

## **Office of Institutional Advancement**

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