

SUSAN KIM ALVAREZ & CICI MCMONIGLE:***Oh for Goodness Snake!***

Curated by Heike Dempster

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATES: Jan 24, 2025 -Feb 24, 2025

RECEPTION: Friday, Jan 25, 6-8pm

LOCATION: 64A Bayard Street,
New York, NY 10013

LATITUDE Gallery is pleased to announce *Oh for Goodness Snake!*, an exhibition featuring Miami-based painters Susan Kim Alvarez and Cici McMonigle, on view from January 24 to February 24, 2025. Curated by Heike Dempster and timed to coincide with the Lunar New Year celebrating the Year of the Snake, the exhibition explores transformation, renewal, and interconnectedness, reflecting the rich symbolism of the snake in the Chinese zodiac.

Alvarez and McMonigle, close friends since high school, draw on their shared history and artistic connection to create works that balance humor, emotional depth, and the uncanny. Informed by fables, family stories, and personal experiences, their paintings transport viewers into a fantastical world where reality merges with imagination.

The exhibition invites audiences into a vibrant universe populated by anthropomorphic figures and whimsical creatures—ranging from lions and dogs to snakes and cowboys. Alvarez and McMonigle explore intuition and movement in their painterly practices, weaving traditions with renewal and blending folklore with the interplay of the old and new.

Cultural and personal histories underpin the artists' works. Alvarez's Cuban, Vietnamese, and Jewish heritage informs her vivid landscapes, where figures and miniature scenes intertwine with humor and introspection. Influenced by traditions like the Lunar New Year Lion Dance, her paintings fuse mythologies and memories into layered compositions. Meanwhile, McMonigle's half-Chinese, half-American background inspires her fantastical creatures. Growing up in South Florida, where Asians are underrepresented, she channels her multicultural experiences into surreal yet relatable characters, inviting viewers into imaginative storytelling.

Oh for Goodness Snake! celebrates the Lunar New Year and Chinese heritage with creativity, friendship, and collaboration. Set in Manhattan's historic Chinatown, the exhibition offers an

immersive space filled with movement, storytelling, and tradition—embracing fantasy, music, and even slithering across the dancefloor.

For inquiries or additional information, please contact LATITUDE Gallery at s@latitude-gallery.nyc or visit us at 64A Bayard Street, New York, NY 10013.

Susan Kim Alvarez

(b. 2000, Honolulu, HI) Susan Kim Alvarez is a Miami-based artist known for her vibrant landscapes that blend humor, satire, and personal mythology. She received a degree in Interdisciplinary Sculpture from the Maryland Institute College of Art in 2022. Alvarez's work employs paint and mixed materials to create fantastical, multi-layered worlds inspired by her childhood experiences and introspective explorations.

Selected solo exhibitions include *Mount Royal Mansion Exhibit*, curated by Abigail DeVille, Baltimore, MD (2020); *Oogly Boogly* at NSU Art Museum, Fort Lauderdale, FL (2023); and *Squonk, Squonky, Squonkalicious* at Storage Archive Gallery, New York City, NY (2024). Alvarez has participated in prestigious residencies, including the Bakehouse Art Complex Summer Residency in Miami, FL (2022) and the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, ME (2023). Her works are held in notable public and private collections, including the Marquez Art Project and NSU Art Museum. She has participated in notable studio residencies, including the Bakehouse Art Complex (Miami, 2024) and Laundromat Art Space (Miami, 2023).

Cici McMonigle

(b. 2001, Tianjin, China) Cici McMonigle is a Miami-based artist who studied fine art at Parsons School of Design, New York, and psychology at Polk State College, Winter Haven, Florida. Her practice explores themes of identity, emotion, and the surreal, often drawing from her interdisciplinary background.

McMonigle's first solo museum exhibition was presented by the NSU Art Museum in 2025. Additional solo exhibitions include *Wild West Circus* at the Mulberry Cultural Center, Mulberry, Florida. Her work has been featured in numerous group exhibitions, including *Florida Room 3: Snowbirds* at KDR, Miami (2024); *Seeing is Believing* at Mulberry Cultural Center, Mulberry, Florida (2024); and *But Naked: A Collection of Soul Bearing Work* at the Polk Museum of Art (2018), among others.