

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SAN LUIS OBISPO MUSEUM OF ART TO PRESENT *STRANGE MAGIC* A SOLO EXHIBITION BY
INSTALLATION ARTIST JULIE ALPERT**

San Luis Obispo, CA – November 5th, 2024 – The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art (SLOMA) is pleased to announce *Strange Magic*, a solo exhibition by Seattle-based artist Julie Alpert. Alpert has been delighting communities with her thoughtful and life-like installations around the world for many years.

As we step into *Strange Magic*, artist Julie Alpert’s first solo show in California, we know one thing for certain: life is being lived. There are potted flowers, tables, windows, shelves, bottles of hand soap and laundry detergent, a slightly oversized mug and box fan - all necessary functional and decorative elements of a routine living space. Amidst this delightful chaos we also see the youthful exuberance of life: the colors, shapes, and patterns invite us to experience feelings of playfulness and delight – a slightly imperfect handmade beauty.

In preparation for her installations, Alpert uses a stream-of-consciousness process to make lots of drawings and collages (the mockups for *Strange Magic* are just to your right). These smaller yet equally intricate pieces enable her to work out the colors, textures and shapes that she translates into the large-scale work.

“Coloring, cutting and gluing,” Alpert says, “is my favorite way to connect with the world and to myself.” The use of arts and crafts supplies, hardware store materials, and modified household objects emphasizes the wacky, wonderful, and downright magic that’s possible in routine and repetition.

Informed by Alpert’s daily walks in South Seattle’s Seward Park, surrounded by majestic lakes and mountains, and filled with unexpected encounters with goslings, herons, woodpeckers, and otters, Alpert infuses her work with this same sense of wonder and surprise, only using the interior world, our privately lived yet universal, domestic lives, as her stage. In a world full of hard things, Alpert’s work bridges the gaps between our realities and expectations and transports us back to a time where we can play as children do.

On **Friday, November 15, 5-8pm** the Museum will host a special opening for the public with an artist-led tour of the exhibition.

Other programming to be announced

This exhibition is possible thanks to the generous support of our sponsors Liz Mason and Todd Peterson.

About the Artist: Julie Alpert is a Seattle-based artist who makes colorful site-specific installations and works on paper. She earned a BA from the University of Maryland and an MFA from the University of Washington, both in painting and drawing. She has received grants from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation, Artist Trust, and Oklahoma Visual Art Coalition and has participated in artist residencies across the US including two MacDowell fellowships, Roswell Artist in Residence

Program, Tulsa Artist Fellowship, VCCA, and I-Park Foundation. Her work is in the collections of the Anderson Museum, Facebook Seattle, Ledger Bentonville, Seattle Public Utilities, King County, and the Washington State Art Collection. She has a major public art commission opening at SeaTac Airport next year and is represented by J. Rinehart Gallery. Julie is married to the artist Andy Arkley and they have three cats: Coconut, Koala, and Baby Cloud.

About the San Luis Obispo Museum of Art

The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art (SLOMA) is an innovative and accessible museum located on California's Central Coast. The museum presents an outstanding exhibitions program that features artists from California and around the world, as well as an ongoing series of dynamic events that engage visitors of all ages. SLOMA is located in downtown San Luis Obispo on the west end of Mission Plaza, at the heart of the city's cultural corridor. A destination for art lovers and those just beginning to experience art alike, the museum provides a welcoming space and offers free admission to all. More information can be found at www.sloma.org.

Photo credits and courtesy lines



Strange Magic work in progress, 2024, wood, paint, dimensions variable



Strange Magic mock-ups, 2024, collage on paper



Strange Magic mock-ups, 2024, collage on paper



Strange Magic mock-ups, 2024, collage on paper