

# HARSH COLLECTIVE

## *Harsh Holiday Bazaar*

**December 7 – December 20, 2023**

Opening Reception December 7, 6-8 p.m. at 532 W 28th Street



Michele Mirisola, *Courtyard Dream*, Epoxy clay, gouache, oyster shells, wood, resin, 22 x 26 x 5.5 inches.  
Photograph by William Mullen.

***New York, New York*** - Harsh Collective is pleased to announce the Harsh Holiday Bazaar. The exhibition will take place from December 7th to December 20th, with an opening reception on **December 7th, from 6 to 8 p.m., at 532 W 28th St, New York, NY 10001.**

Harsh Holiday Bazaar is a group show of creators specializing in mediums typically categorized as craft. The Arts and Crafts movement of the late 19th century began to legitimize many mediums that were historically considered “women’s work,” yet it consisted mainly of male artists. These men remain relevant to the art historical narrative, however, female artists and artisans are lost to history. The goal of the Arts and Crafts movement is to return to the quality of handmade products in the face of rapid industrialization.

The artists featured in this exhibition are Laura Benson, Rachel Ellenbogen, Erin Ibo, Michele Marisola, Hannah Melville-Weatherbee, Jessi Moore, Iviva Olenick, Vineta Rendler, and Fernanda Uribe.

“In order to continue the mission to redefine craft as High Art we have chosen to produce an exhibition of artworks that utilize crafting techniques and hand-crafted design objects. The works in this show are made exclusively by female artists in order to reinforce the importance of women in the creation, progression, and elevation of these canonically diminished art forms.” – Etta Harshaw, Founder Harsh Collective

# HARSH COLLECTIVE

## About the Artists

### Laura Benson

Laura Benson is a mixed media artist whose work entangles the mystic and grounding allure of the natural world with the constant uncovering of a personal mythos. This process involves considerations of a connective subconscious which interweaves humans present and past through imprintings of symbols and archetypes in the interior mind. Benson pieces together an internal landscape of sacred storytelling through often surreal and unsettling imagery using methods such as Gelli-plate printing, soldering, collage, jewelry-making, amongst others. Her work aims to hold a curiosity towards the significance of mystical symbolism that lingers inside of us and how it can inform our harrowing existence – even in the most subtle ways.

<https://laurarbenson.com/>

### Rachel Ellenbogen

Rachel Ellenbogen is a New York based designer and embroiderer inspired by color, texture and details. A graduate of Parsons BFA Fashion Design 2022, her work focuses heavily on hand embroidery and applique. She got her start and found a love of color in high school with a focus on colored pencil and collage. In 2018 she discovered a love for hand embroidery and has been practicing it ever since. At present she is focused on clothing, embroidered textiles, and art pieces. Rachel Ellenbogen was the runner up in the fashion student category in the 2020 Hand & Lock prize for embroidery, and she was the first place winner of the 2021 Hand & Lock prize for embroidery in the Student fashion category. Her BFA graduate collection “Terms & Conditions” was sponsored by Swarovski who provided her with crystals to embellish the collection.

<https://rachelellenbogen.com/>

### Erin Ibo

Painting, prints and pots

Erin Ibo is a multidisciplinary artist based in Brooklyn. Her work yearns to visually interpret the process of forgetting by delving into decay, memory, and the inevitable. She received her B.F.A. from Cornell University in 2022.

<https://erinibo.art/>

### Michele Mirisola

Michele is a visual artist and birth doula. She loves tuna & citrus & going for a schvitz. She lives in Brooklyn Heights and mostly takes the ferry. Michele went to Hampshire College, MA and studied oil painting & fiction writing. She has shown her paintings throughout the US. Recently her practice moved home, the shell piles came out, and here we are. Her work can be purchased here, Clove & Creek, Goods in Maine, Lolo, and Your Other Left Ear.

<https://www.chell-fish.com/>

# HARSH COLLECTIVE

## Hannah Melville-Weatherbee

Dear Dolly is the passion project of Hannah Melville-Weatherbee, a Rhode Island based artist who works all day in a veterinary hospital, and spends each night in a tiny teal walled studio, creating tiny things. Dear Dolly was inspired by a family heirloom, an antique locket, once belonging to her female ancestor. Melville-Weatherbee describes that “by placing a tool for documenting within something as personal and as treasured as a locket, I hope to honor the women and girls who once wore these pieces, while I continue to record my own visual stories and encourage others to record theirs.”

All the lockets are vintage, some have stains or rust, some have aged differently on the back than the front, as they once spent years being worn against a stranger’s chest. I leave these imperfections on purpose, because they are part of the locket’s unique story. To them, I add a strong epoxy clay, acrylic, delftware inspired designs, a polyurethane varnish, and lastly, a tiny collection of watercolors, for documenting whatever the locket’s next owner deems worthy of recording.

[https://www.instagram.com/dear\\_dolly\\_pvd/](https://www.instagram.com/dear_dolly_pvd/)

## Jessi Moore

Jessi Moore is an artist, fabricator and educator currently based in Brooklyn, New York. Making and teaching has led her all over the country, including: Seattle, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania.

Although Moore continues to work with blown glass extensively, she also has found an artistic voice in kiln formed glass. Her current body of work combines several glass working techniques, including pate de verre. This meticulous technique involves arranging particles of glass into molds that are then heated to sinter the glass together.

<http://www.jessimooreglass.com/>

## Iviva Olenick

Iviva Olenick is a Brooklyn-born and based artist intersecting textiles, text, performance and community education. She has exhibited at the Philadelphia Museum of Art; Museum of Design Atlanta; Wyckoff House Museum and Old Stone House, Brooklyn; Sugar Hill Children’s Museum of Art & Storytelling, NYC; Hunterdon Museum, Clinton, NJ; South Bend Museum of Art, IN, among others. Iviva is an educator for the Studio Museum in Harlem and a faculty member of SVA’s MFA Art Practice program. She holds a BA in French Language and Literature/Psychology and an AAS in Textile/Surface Design.

<http://www.ivivaolenick.com/>

## Vineta Rendler

Vineta Rendler is a painter practicing in Los Angeles. Her work examines existing patterns and natural forms found within the physical realm. The collection explores how these forms

# HARSH COLLECTIVE

connect to higher consciousness, where nature acts as a portal to strengthen our sense of spirit by increasing sensitivity to the complex beauty of existence.

<https://www.vinetaroserendler.com/>

## Fernanda Uribe

Fernanda Uribe is a visual artist living and working in Brooklyn, NY. Through her paintings and sculptures and installations, she weaves an exploration of her Mexican-Cuban identity as inspired by a deep connection of ancient artifacts, mythologies and nature's fragile but perfect harmony. Her slow, but thoughtful, technique of hand-sculpting, etching and painting mimic the natural process of metamorphoses and decadence, infusing an omnipresent sense of life into her work.

<https://www.fernandauribe.com/about>

## **About Harsh Collective**

Harsh Collective is an artist-first gallery that amplifies emerging contemporary artists' voices and offers a bespoke platform where collectors, artists, and guests are all welcome. Harsh Collective brings the artist's story to the forefront of the art world, offering a creative space driven by community.