

# ELIZABETH LEACH GALLERY

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Visuals available upon request



Vo Vo, *The Unit*, 2025, wool, cotton, mohair, 58 x 32.5"

April 30 - May 31, 2025

**Vo Vo** | *Of ev ryh re and n wh re*

**Christopher Rauschenberg** | *Backstage*

First Thursday: May 1, 2025, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

**Elizabeth Leach Gallery** is excited to announce *Of ev ryh re and n wh re*, the gallery's first solo presentation of works by **Vo Vo** and *Backstage*, an exhibition of photographs by **Christopher Rauschenberg**.

**Vo Vo** creates sculptures and textile-based works that reflect on the geographic interdependency of a globalized economy, climate change, media streams, social forces and the ongoing genocide of a people.

The exhibition title, *Of ev ryh re and n wh re*, is drawn from a quote about adult ‘third culture kids,’ for whom home is “everywhere and nowhere”. Reflecting on their own identity, experience and history as an immigrant, third culture kid, and child of refugees from the Vietnam War, Vo’s installation draws attention to feelings of displacement and the inability to find a place to settle in the world. The exhibition contemplates the possible futures of people who lose their homes, their lands, associated nation-states, or are displaced from the localities where they and their families are from.

Allusions to marginalized bodies, the policing of movement, and imperial and colonial forces, even evident online, are found throughout the exhibition. In Vo’s weavings, the pendulum of a two-party political system swings back and forth; hands enter and emerge from screens; the artist, represented as a horse, navigates a city. Bisecting the gallery, a bench with elements of hostile architecture rises from the floor, its structure both impeding and directing the movement of viewers.

Against these forces, opportunities for community-building and healing emerge – a bed for rest and a table where we can gather appear; a figure steps through a door; the end of the bench offers a poem and a place to sit in contemplation. Creating the opportunity to explore different zones of safety, Vo invites viewers to come together and navigate the current political climate.

**Vo Vo** (they/them) explores support strategies and models of community care within a post-traumatic social landscape, focusing on the resilience of BIPOC, LGBTQIA2S+ and disabled communities. They are editor, educator, curator, artist, and musician who has exhibited and toured in Australia, Germany, Indonesia, The Netherlands, Singapore, Croatia, Mexico, Finland, Denmark, New Zealand, Vietnam, Sweden, Malaysia, and the States. In their transdisciplinary art, they work in textiles, embroidery, audio, video, weaving, and furniture building. Their installations seek to interrogate power dynamics, structural oppression, challenge histories and realities of imperialism, white supremacy and colonization.

Drawn from *Studio Photography*, **Christopher Rauschenberg**’s longest-running series, *Backstage* gives viewers a glimpse into an essential aspect of the art ecosystem, the artist’s studio. As the child of artists and a curator himself, Rauschenberg has frequented studios for his entire life, and thus is particularly well-situated to draw the curtain aside for his audience.

Born of a feeling that the public isn’t shown behind the scenes often enough, these works invite viewers into the studios of Portland-based artists, as well as that of Rauschenberg’s mother, Susan Weil. Through individual images and combinations that create fictional spaces, Rauschenberg sets the stage to allow for discovery of these places of creation. With his deep involvement in Portland, OR’s art scene, Rauschenberg extends a welcome, allowing us to look over his shoulder and engage with the artists around us.

Artists whose studios are featured in *Backstage* include Katherine Ace, Ebenezer Galluzzo, Malia Jensen, Joanne Radmilovich Kollman, Henk Pander, Laura Ross Paul, Marie Watt, and Susan Weil.

Based in Portland, OR, **Christopher Rauschenberg** received his BA from Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA. His work has been exhibited at the Griffin Museum of Photography (Winchester, MA), the Chicago Cultural Center (Chicago, IL), the International Center of Photography (New York, NY) and the George Eastman House (Rochester, NY), among many other major institutions. An exceptionally active leader in the Northwest arts community, Rauschenberg co-founded both Nine Gallery and the photography nonprofit Blue Sky Gallery (Portland, OR).

#### UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS:

June 5 - July 12, 2025

**Jinie Park** | *Exotic Animal*  
Paintings

**Pat Boas** | *Scripts*  
Paintings