

*Chain Letter* is a group exhibition co-curated by artist Alexander Richard Wilson and Union Hall's Chief Curator Ari Myers, featuring the work of Jason Abrams, Micah Dillman, Eseosa Edebiri, Cory Feder, Madeline Job, Grace Kennison, and Alexander Richard Wilson. Opening on September 9, 2021, just days before the 20th anniversary of September 11, 2001, this exhibition includes a group of millennial artists hailing from around the country, over half of which are currently Denver-based. This exhibition attempts to gently reveal something about our current moment, where promises about American Exceptionalism have come unwoven for many. This is felt poignantly by the millennial generation, who feel toned by the pages of history, re-reading diligently and then making edits for clarity and honesty in the present with contemporary hands and eyes.

As children, these artists heard about Weapons of Mass Destruction on the news. They daydreamed in their backyards and doodled in their notebooks in class. These artists used AOL instant messenger and Myspace. Abbreviating language for speed and ease (lol), they still learned to write in cursive, and had landlines in their kitchen rather than iPhones in their backpacks. Rapid changes in technology lead to the rise of cyberbullying and drone warfare in our lifetimes, and in tandem, a new sense of connectedness to the world, to our ancestors, to the suffering and the joy of those outside ourselves, who feel closer to us than ever before.

*Chain Letter* comes as an effort at correlating the depictions and sensations held in form by a collection of artists connected in age, friendship, and an experience of communal loss. In our individual processing of intergenerational friction, and managing the weight of the American politic, conclusions regarding color and tone have been made collectively that reflect an understanding of the importance of a sense of humor regarding our generational condition. These artists, in collection, provide a modern mounting, observances and framing, of the awarenesses and concerns of contemporary persons in

the American landscape. Together they contextualize a desire for an experience unlike those that came before us here, and a sweeping observance of the things we've lost, and are losing.

Within time, the connections established between us in our pursuit of love and life within humanity unify us. Like text on a page, we often share the same foreword, middle, and end. Ultimately, the stories are interwoven by time's end. The letter stands between us, tying the ephemera of the contemporary and its effects, to us, and each other. Linked together, we observe the condition of our connections; our sharing of time, and occupation of space, here in the Western Complex.