

Pair of Alfred University alumnae to present Cohen Gallery exhibitions

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ALFRED, NY Ladia Guerra and Victoria Kue, 2016 graduates of the Alfred University School of Art and Design, will present exhibitions next month at the University's Cohen Gallery.

Guerra and Kue earned Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees from Alfred University. Both will have their work shown at the Cohen Gallery on Main Street in Alfred as part of the Cohen Artistic Promise Prize Exhibitions. The exhibitions run Feb. 2 through March 16; an opening reception will be held at the gallery on Feb. 2 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Guerra and Kue each earned Cohen Artistic Promise Prizes in 2016. According to the School of Art and Design, the award recognized two graduating seniors "whose work, hunger, sustained growth and ambition marked them out as those who would continue on as artists beyond their academic training."

The prize grants concurrent solo shows at the Cohen 18 months following graduation, and is designed to foster the growth begun in school, encourage the continuation of artistic practice and support the drive needed to reach full artistic potential.

Guerra's exhibition is titled "The Sweat Life." The exhibition "explores domestic spaces and the way in which we interact in and view them." It consists of video works "conveying the feeling of loneliness, belonging, and the somewhat grotesque nature of private domestic spaces. The videos incite laughter, feelings of unease, and offer a psychological twist on what a domestic space can be through the lens of commercial objects and characters."

Kue's exhibition is titled "what's her face." The exhibition "pushes back at the familial interrogation of a sexually active Hmong-American woman who negotiates and claims ownership with her identity, body and sexuality." Using the house as the setting to confront self-identity, the exhibition "explores placement, function and language within domestic objects as a way to recognize the discomfort, struggles and paradoxes within sexual relationships."