

## *Please Hold*

An interdisciplinary exhibition by Eliza Wapner and Virginia Walcott  
On view at Aquarium Gallery from February 11, 2022 — March 6, 2022  
934 Montegut Street | New Orleans, LA 70117

### Works on Display

#### Paintings

A series of eight completed paintings and one in-progress painting using a shade of blue often associated with medical settings. As unsettling as it is soothing, the color paints a universal dullness over our individual experiences in these spaces.

#### *Collective Pain Map*

Eliza Wapner and you

18" x 24"

House paint and oil pastel on canvas

2022

#### *Doctor's Note*

Virginia Walcott

18" x 24"

House paint, paper, sharpie, and screen printing on canvas

2022

#### *Left Side of My Body*

Eliza Wapner

18" x 24"

House paint and painter's tape on canvas

2022

#### *Mending (Gathering the Pieces)*

Eliza Wapner

18" x 24"

House paint and yarn on canvas

2022

#### *Mystery Meat*

Do you ever think about your body like a hot dog casing?

Eliza Wapner

18" x 24"

House paint and cotton mesh on canvas

2022

*One Month*

Eliza Wapner

18" x 24"

House paint, glue, and one month of unused birth control on canvas  
2022

*Overview*

Virginia Walcott

18" x 24"

House paint on canvas  
2022

*Thumps*

Virginia Walcott

18" x 24"

House paint and hot glue on canvas  
2022

*Trying to Remember*

Virginia Walcott

18" x 24"

House paint, thumbtacks, photographs, sharpie, pen and ink, stickers, medical exam paper,  
and found objects on canvas  
2022

Text-Based Works

*Individual Pain Maps*

Eliza Wapner and you

6.5" x 9.25" booklets

Screen printed on drawing paper  
2022

*Time Balm*

Virginia Walcott

(17) 9" x 12" fliers

Screen printed on drawing paper  
2021

*Undulating Blue*

Virginia Walcott

(8) 8.5" x 3.5" brochures

Inkjet-printed medical exam paper

2020

*Waiting Room*

Virginia Walcott

(6) 9" x 13" clipboards

Inkjet-printed on 8.5" x 11" copy paper

2021

Video & Audio

*Inside*

Eliza Wapner

HD Video 1920 x 1080

2:00 minutes, looped

Ultrasound footage from February 2021 — August 2021

2022

*White Noise I*

Virginia Walcott

HD Video 1920 x 1080

20:00 minutes, looped

2022

*White Noise II*

Virginia Walcott

.mp3 audio track

20:00 minutes, looped

2022

Sculpture

*How Does My Pain Look? (The Fifth Vital Sign)*

Eliza Wapner

Wire, Newspaper, Plaster, Acrylic Paint

2022

Paper Quilt (Tuck Me In) I

Eliza Wapner

Reupholstered chair

Medical exam paper, office chair, spray adhesive, black thread, tape, polyfill  
2022

Paper Quilt (Tuck Me In) II

Eliza Wapner

Reupholstered chair

Medical exam paper, office chair, spray adhesive, black thread, tape, polyfill  
2022

Paper Quilt (Tuck Me In) III

Eliza Wapner and Lee Gilmore

Custom-welded bench

Steel, wood, denim, medical exam paper, black thread, polyfill  
2022

## *Please Hold*

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On view at Aquarium Gallery from February 11, 2022 — March 6, 2022  
934 Montegut Street | New Orleans, LA 70117

New Orleans-based artists Eliza Wapner and Virginia Walcott present *Please Hold*, an interdisciplinary exhibition on view at Aquarium Gallery from February 11, 2022 — March 6, 2022. Combining textiles, video, painting, sculpture, and text-based works, the show examines the dissonance between our unpredictable, mysterious bodies and the rote motions of the medical system. Looking beyond health care providers and their practices, *Please Hold* explores the anonymous and disquieting environments created by these systems and the deeply personal experience of navigating them. In their first body of work together, Walcott and Wapner ask you to notice the in-between spaces of knowing something is wrong but not knowing what, the repetitive dance of questions and answers, the ghosts of pain, and the fatigue of perpetual doubt. How do these moments spur shifts in our relationship to our body and one another?

Drawing respectively from life-long experiences with chronic health conditions and a recent bout of misdiagnosed heart problems, Wapner and Walcott explore the invisible strife and absurdity of navigating our ever-changing bodies. *Please Hold* opens Friday, February 11, 2022 from 6-10 pm at Aquarium Gallery, located at 934 Montegut St. New Orleans, LA 70117. Viewing appointments and closing reception to be announced.

### About the Artists

Virginia Walcott (she/her) is an artist, designer, and filmmaker from the Gulf Coast of Alabama. She works in video and 2D/3D mixed media and is interested in our natural, built, and digital environments, ideas of home, and the U.S. South. She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 2016 and has spent the last five years working for publications like *The Atlantic* and *Scalawag Magazine*. She lives in New Orleans where she teaches at various art centers and runs a creative studio called Superhumid, working with clients primarily in journalism and music. She was recently added as a member of Staple Goods, a cooperatively run gallery in the St. Roch neighborhood of New Orleans.

Eliza Wapner (she/her) is an artist living and working in New Orleans, LA. She graduated from Syracuse University in 2016 with a BFA in Studio Art. Since then, she has held artist residencies in the US and China. Her small naturally dyed clothing brand, Lil Bits Cloth, focuses on creating well made garments and home goods with a traceable story. Her artistic practices often utilizes textiles, installation, video, and performance to explore a variety of different themes ranging from the textile industry, to pain, to corn farming. You can find her teaching natural dye at the Material Institute and art in New Orleans schools.