THE POETICS OF TRANSLATION

Translation is a process from one form, place, state or appearance to another. These processes are never immediate and create possibilities for multiple interpretations. Translating memories to form, medium to medium, senses to senses, all convey a poetic quality that is explored in this exhibition.

The visualization of memory to form in Dylan Reitz’s work and the contrast between different spaces, and Damien Davis’s exploration of the limits of self and other are apparent in their works. Kelsey Knutson translates diverse ways of communicating into pure abstract form. Lynnette Miranda’s play of textures loosens the materiality of forms and highlights the processes of their creation. Shin Yeon Moon and Joeun Aatchim Kim explore the possibilities of communicating a state of mind, whereas Giulia Modenese focuses on the fluid intersection between one image and another.

The critic Walter Benjamin’s notion of translation presupposes the superiority of the original, yet he speaks of the incomprehensible or poetic quality of translation as an essence, which can be taken over to the next form. Disregarding the hierarchy of the original to translation, this poetic quality reflects the importance of the process of translation and speaks to the innovation that is created between two states. Thinking about the process rather than the result highlights the opportunities for change, transformation and revelation triggered by an aim to transform one thing into another.

The exhibition is curated by the Julia Lammer, Meriwether McClory, Lauren Smith, and Jessica Steller, from the Visual Arts Administration Masters program in the Department of Art and Art Professions, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development. The artworks are selected from BFA and MA students from New York University.