

# PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### STEP INTO YOUR POWER

Savannah, GA, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021—*POETIC BODIES* is a two-person exhibition featuring the work of Katie Chatham and Mattie Sterling. The opening reception is Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> from 3pm – 7pm at 450 Whitaker Street, Savannah, GA. *POETIC BODIES* is free and open to the public.

This show explores the sacredness and power of the human figure within two different frameworks. Both artists work with the human form and exploration of the human experience. Their work is a reminder of the authority and freedom that we have within our own lives.

Katie Chatham pulls from narratives across cultures that relay stories of the evolution of man's character or soul after overcoming a large obstacle. Her paintings focus on the Hero's Journey as an archetypal example of human fortitude and transfiguration. The ability to experience hardship, move through it, and rise from the ashes is awe inspiring, and it is something that we all experience at one point in our lives. Working in oil on canvas, she depicts instances of metamorphosis with dramatic imagery of the human figure. Much of the work is warm and saturated, and the purpose of this is to heighten the intensity of these life-altering moments. Processes of change are multifaceted, revealing the light and dark within us, which is why she emphasizes the contrast within the pieces. We have to embrace both in order to achieve growth or ascension on our path. We all have a journey or path, and our role is that of a hero. Her work is a call to action for the hero within.

Mattie Sterling's work is a manifestation of feminine figures as well as a feminist assessment of conceptions behind women's sexuality and sexual identity. Her artistic practice highlights the experiences behind women's lives through the lens of Fourth-Wave Feminism. Part of her feminist practice revolves around equality in sex. Understanding that pornography and erotica play an integral role in how people begin to learn and identify with their sexualities, she depicts images of women in legal pornography, and she does this using traditional methods such as oil on panel. The overt eroticism behind actions of pornography allows her to give the women depicted in her work a means of sexual authority over their bodies. With subtle satirical criticism in expression, the work she creates operates outside the confines of a space devoid of meaning and matter because her work allows her to debunk the gendered stereotype of women's sexual authority over their bodies.

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POETIC BODIES

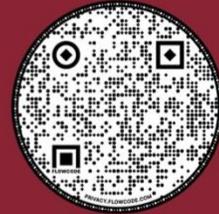
Katie Chatham & Mattie Sterling

# POETIC BODIES

Two Person Exhibition  
Mattie Sterling & Katie Chatham

Opening Reception  
Saturday, May 15, 2021  
3pm - 7pm

450 Whitaker Street,  
Savannah, GA, 31401



For additional information or a sample copy, contact: Katie Chatham  
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POETIC BODIES  
Katie Chatham & Mattie Sterling



*Bloody but Unbowed*, Katie Chatham, oil on canvas, 32" x 48", 2020

Katie Chatham is a visual artist, born in Mobile, Alabama in 1998. She will be receiving a B.F.A. in Painting from Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, GA. She has exhibited her work in juried exhibitions and other group exhibitions in Alabama and Georgia. Chatham works figuratively and her artwork explores narratives that speak to the human experience of transformation. The most recent exhibition she participated in was SCAD's Virtual Open Studio in May 2021. Chatham is currently living and working between Alabama and Georgia.

See more of Chatham's work at: [www.katiechatham.com](http://www.katiechatham.com)

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POETIC BODIES

Katie Chatham & Mattie Sterling



*Calme tes seins*, Mattie Sterling, oil on panel, 30" x 40", 2021

Mattie Sterling is a figurative painter born in Charleston, South Carolina. Sterling is currently finishing up her BFA in Painting from the Savannah College of Art and Design. She has spent the past two years engaging in open-studio exhibitions, written criticism around Feminist art practice, and partaken in discussions about beliefs behind sexuality, sex positivity, and the “hypocrisy and instabilities that subvert it”. The female figure and the emancipation of women’s sexuality and sexual authority over their bodies have continued to be an area of provenance behind Sterling’s paintings. She is currently living and working in Savannah, Georgia.

See more of Sterling’s work at: [www.mattietharp.com](http://www.mattietharp.com)

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