



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

When the Veil Thins

Curated by Tofer Chin and Mari Orkenyi

September 19, 2024 – January 12, 2025



Aryana Minai, *Field Echo I*, detail, 2023, dyed handmade paper, mounted on panel, 41 x 47 inches.
Courtesy of the artist and Nazarian / Curcio. Photo credit: Joshua White

LONG BEACH, CA (September 9, 2024) – Compound, the nonprofit art space and community hub located in the Zaferia district of Long Beach, is pleased to present *When the Veil Thins*, a group exhibition curated by artist Tofer Chin and mindfulness educator and writer Mari Orkenyi. This exhibition will feature a selection of works in painting, sculpture, photography, textiles, and film, exploring the relationship between art-making and the psyche, including memories, traumas, and experiences. *When the Veil Thins* will be on view across the Compound campus from September 19, 2024, through January 12, 2025, with an opening reception hosted on September 19, 2024, from 7-11 PM.



Mari Orkenyi (L) and Tofer Chin (R). Photo by Claudia Lucia.

When The Veil Thins will feature work by Amir H. Fallah, Analia Saban, Aryana Minai, Jamal Gunn Becker, Mia Weiner, Mike Nesbit, Molly Haynes, Shaniqwa Jarvis, Thomas Linder, and Todd Tourso. Focusing on materiality, process, absence, presence, and the relationship with the unconscious, *When The Veil Thins* seeks to illuminate the multifaceted ways in which artists grapple with personal and collective experiences, ultimately finding avenues of expression and healing through art-making.

The concept of the veil thinning is rooted in various cultural and religious beliefs, describing a time or place where the boundary between the physical world and the spiritual realm becomes less distinct. We are curious about what happens when the veil thins to the point of invisibility, and how art allows us to access and move through this liminal space beyond our reach.

– Curators Tofer Chin and Mari Orkenyi

This exhibition poses the question: *What are we made of?* In the main exhibition space, Mike Nesbit's work addresses architecture and context through the layering of building materials, paint, and printmaking in his diptych *To Meier St, from Little Italy*. Meanwhile, Jamal Gunn Becker explores found materials and pre-existing substrates, reframing traditional ideas of landscape through painting. Analia Saban challenges the boundaries between painting and sculpture by utilizing technological experimentation to manipulate her paper works, *Erosion*,

Positive / Negative (Computer Fan), and her marble floor sculpture *Computer Fan #1*. Aryana Minai's dyed handmade paper piece, *Field Echo I*, continues her exploration of creating pulped paper from found materials, paralleling the process of remembering and reconsidering through personal memory, transforming one form into another.

In Compound's open interior space, Todd Tourso's film installation, *Paradise*, meditates on death, rebirth, and resilience during a journey through Mexico, exploring the oppression of Western religion on native culture. Situated adjacent to Tourso's work is Aryana Minai's site-specific installation, *Ruins*, composed of paper pulp bricks, which draws on her personal experience as an Iranian-American living between two distinct cultures, exploring broader issues of architecture, migration, labor, and the body.

The interplay of textile and painting is evident in works by Mia Weiner, Molly Haynes, and Amir H. Fallah, who explore identity, memory, and the psychology of human relationships. Shaniqwa Jarvis' maple-framed photograph, *I swear I Saw You*, and Thomas Linder's fiberglass painting, *Cloud Pattern*, create windows into spaces that solidify moments and memories.

Concurrent with *When the Veil Thins*, Chin's work *THERE IS ANOTHER WORLD, AND IT IS IN THIS ONE* will be on view in The Lab, a freestanding building on Compound's campus designed for experimental and large-scale exhibitions. The installation interrogates conventional notions of space, security, and identity through four interconnected picket fence walls made of charred cedar wood. Chin repurposes the picket fence, a pervasive fixture of Los Angeles' suburban expansion, subverting the constructs of domesticity and security inherent in the form.

Compound's courtyard space will also feature a ceramic water sculpture by Roksana Pirouzmand, newly acquired by Compound in conjunction with *When the Veil Thins*. Pirouzmand creates sculptural objects and installations that perform in tandem with her body, dealing with diasporic memory and forms of care and violence. The piece, *Until All Is Dissolved*, recently debuted at the Hammer's biennial, *Made in L.A. 2023: Acts of Living*. Compound is pleased to welcome Pirouzmand's work to its permanent collection.

In a world that rushes to standardize, label, simplify, and provide instructions based on formulas—in a race for accomplishments and comparisons—the invitation to see ourselves as landscapes, moving through different seasons in a constant state of impermanence, serves as the starting point for this exhibition. *When the Veil Thins* ushers in an exciting new chapter for Compound, coinciding with the appointment of January Parkos Arnall as Compound's new Executive Director, and the complete return of the organization's robust contemporary art programming.

About Tofer Chin

(b. 1979, Los Angeles, CA)

Tofer Chin's work spans various mediums, including painting, sculpture, large-scale public murals, and sculpture installations. Chin currently lives and works in Los Angeles. He received a BFA in Fine Arts from Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles in 2002 and is a recipient of California Community Foundation Fellowship for The Visual Arts in 2019. He has produced public installations for Los Angeles International Airport, The Michelle and Barack Obama Sports Complex in Los Angeles, Compound in Long Beach, and Oregon Institute of Technology. Chin has exhibited at The Schneider Museum of Art in Oregon, LAXART in Los Angeles, Shoshana Wayne in Santa Monica, Baik+Khneysser in Los Angeles, Guerrero Gallery in Los Angeles, Reina Sofia National Museum in Madrid, and Museum of Image and Sound in São Paulo.

About Mari Orkenyi

(b. 1984, São Paulo, Brazil)

Mari Orkenyi is a Mindfulness Teacher and Writer. Orkenyi's work lives in the space where Contemplative Practices, Arts, and Western Psychotherapy intersect. Mari is currently a psychotherapist in training in the process of receiving her Masters in Counseling Psychology at Pacifica Graduate Institute. She received her Certification in Contemplative Psychotherapy from Nalanda Institute for Contemplative Science. Mari is also a certified Meditation Teacher from Ananda School of Yoga and Meditation, and holds a Masters in Arts and Cultural Management from the Universitat Internacional de Catalunya, Barcelona. Selected clients include MOCA, Beats/Apple, LA Dance Project, Marciano Art Foundation, Doordash and Ritual Vitamins. As a native Brazilian immigrant with Hungarian Jewish roots, living in Los Angeles by way of Spain and Mexico, her multicultural perspectives and backgrounds are continuously informing the intersectionality in her work.

About Compound

Compound is located at the corner of East 14th Street and Coronado Avenue within the thriving Zaferia District of Long Beach. At the intersection of art, culture, and community, this dynamic creative space is centered on the belief that culture shifts consciousness. Inspiring artworks of emerging and intergenerational artists invite guests to explore, discover, and connect. Compound operates as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) entity with public programming, including contemporary art exhibitions and immersive experiences, talks, wellness classes, workshops, community markets, and youth programs. A selection of programs are free and accessible thanks to the generous support of Compound's partners and funders. Compound welcomes locals, regulars, and new visitors to experience the cultural diversity of its neighborhood.

Visiting Compound

General admission to Compound is free, and parking is available at Compound's nearby structure at 1326 Obispo Avenue for \$5 with validation at Compound or Union. Ride sharing is also strongly encouraged. Compound is open Wednesday through Saturday from 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm, and Sunday from 11:00 am to 8:00 pm.

For more information on Compound's programs and events, please visit the website at www.compoundlb.org, follow Compound on Instagram, or subscribe to the newsletter. For direct inquiries, please contact info@compoundlb.org or call 562-534-5060.

Media Contact

Lainya Magaña | A&O PR

347-395-4155

lainya@aopublic.com