

**SAIC**  
**SHOWS**  
**2022**

**GRADUATE**  
**EXHIBITION**  
**ONE**  
**MARCH 3–9**

**SAIC Galleries**  
33 E. Washington St.  
[saic.edu/exhibitions](http://saic.edu/exhibitions)

Free and open to the  
public by appointment

Monday–Saturday  
11:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

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## WELCOME

I am thrilled to welcome you to the 2022 graduate exhibitions at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC). Here you'll find a culmination of long hours in the studio, deep engagement with materials and texts, and intense discussion with colleagues and faculty. I am so proud of our grads for the ways in which they have navigated the difficult time in our world, dedicating themselves to their work and each other. They have worked through tremendous challenges, when art is both under-resourced and sorely needed. More than ever, we need artists and thought leaders if we are to survive and thrive as a collective. Our grads have honed technical skills and made formal breakthroughs in and out of their studios and redefined the relationship between thought, society, and the material world. With the artwork here, our graduates ask the community to join them to imagine new worlds, sustain empathy, and be playful and resourceful. I congratulate this cohort on their resilience and am eager to hear where they go next.

Delinda Collier, Interim Dean of Graduate Studies

## REFLECTIONS ON RUPTURE: NOTES ON SAIC GRADUATE EXHIBITION ONE

Up until 2019, the Department of Exhibitions and Exhibition Studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) followed a tried-and-true recipe to put on our master of fine arts culminating exhibition: we would hold a single graduate exhibition, in person, at the Sullivan Galleries on State Street. In February 2020, the School publicly announced the relocation of our art galleries to 33 East Washington Street, eager to offer SAIC students a new, spacious venue with three stories to exhibit their work.

Then we experienced a break—something that forced us out of our stasis.

In the uncertainty that came with the onset of the pandemic, the 2020 *Graduate Exhibition* moved online entirely, marking a first for the School. Easing back into in-person activity in fall 2020, we hosted the 2021 *Graduate Exhibition* in our new galleries on Washington Street. Students from Fashion Design and the Departments of Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Designed Objects showed their work alongside master of fine arts students for the first time.

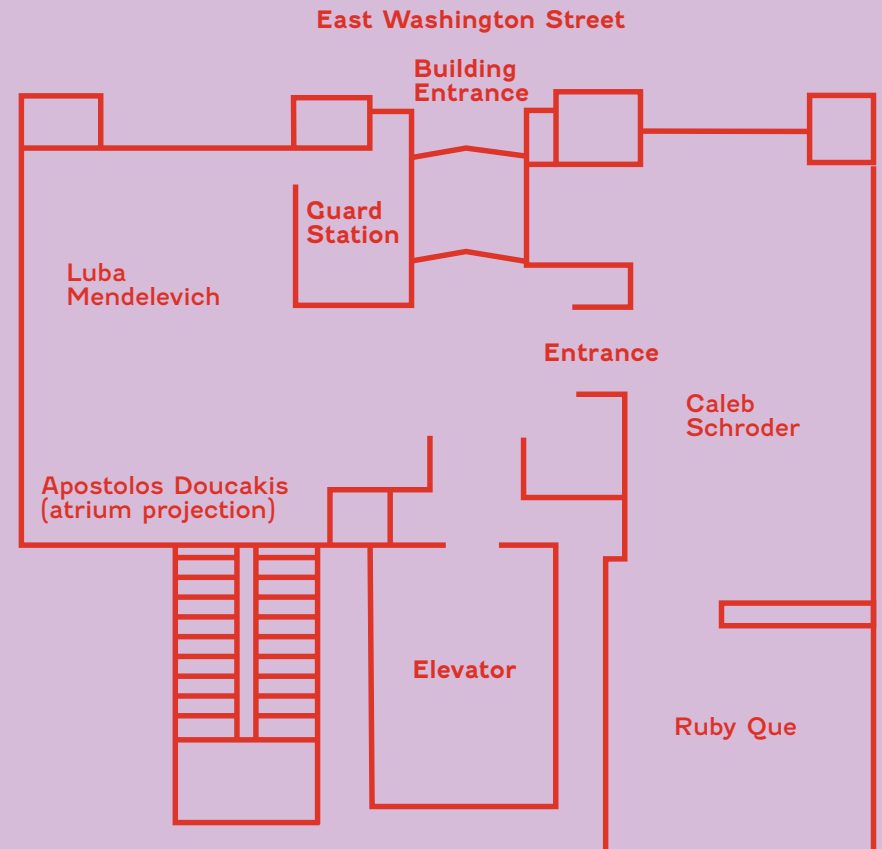
Now here we are in 2022 with yet another series of firsts. The 2022 *Graduate Exhibition* has been split into two shows: *Graduate Exhibition One* in March and *Graduate Exhibition Two* in May. In the March exhibition, master of arts students from the Department of Visual and Critical Studies are also presenting work. And, on top of this, the IMPACT Performance Festival is being hosted in the gallery, accompanying our visual artists' work.

The reasons for the historic SAIC firsts of the past few years are multiple and layered: a global pandemic, varying class sizes, institutional changes, a spirit of experimentation, and shifting student needs, to name a few. And yet, regardless of the challenges each year brought with it, every iteration of the *Graduate Exhibition* has intentionally carved out time and space to recognize the work of SAIC's graduate students as they prepare to leave the School. For some of our graduates, this is the first time their work will be presented in a formal exhibition. For others, it is simply another point on a storied timeline of exhibiting work. In either case, the *Graduate Exhibition* offers a moment to take stock of our artists' individual accomplishments and of our community's concerns. In these expansive shows, we can look at work from students across departments at SAIC and find unifying themes as well as poignant differences.

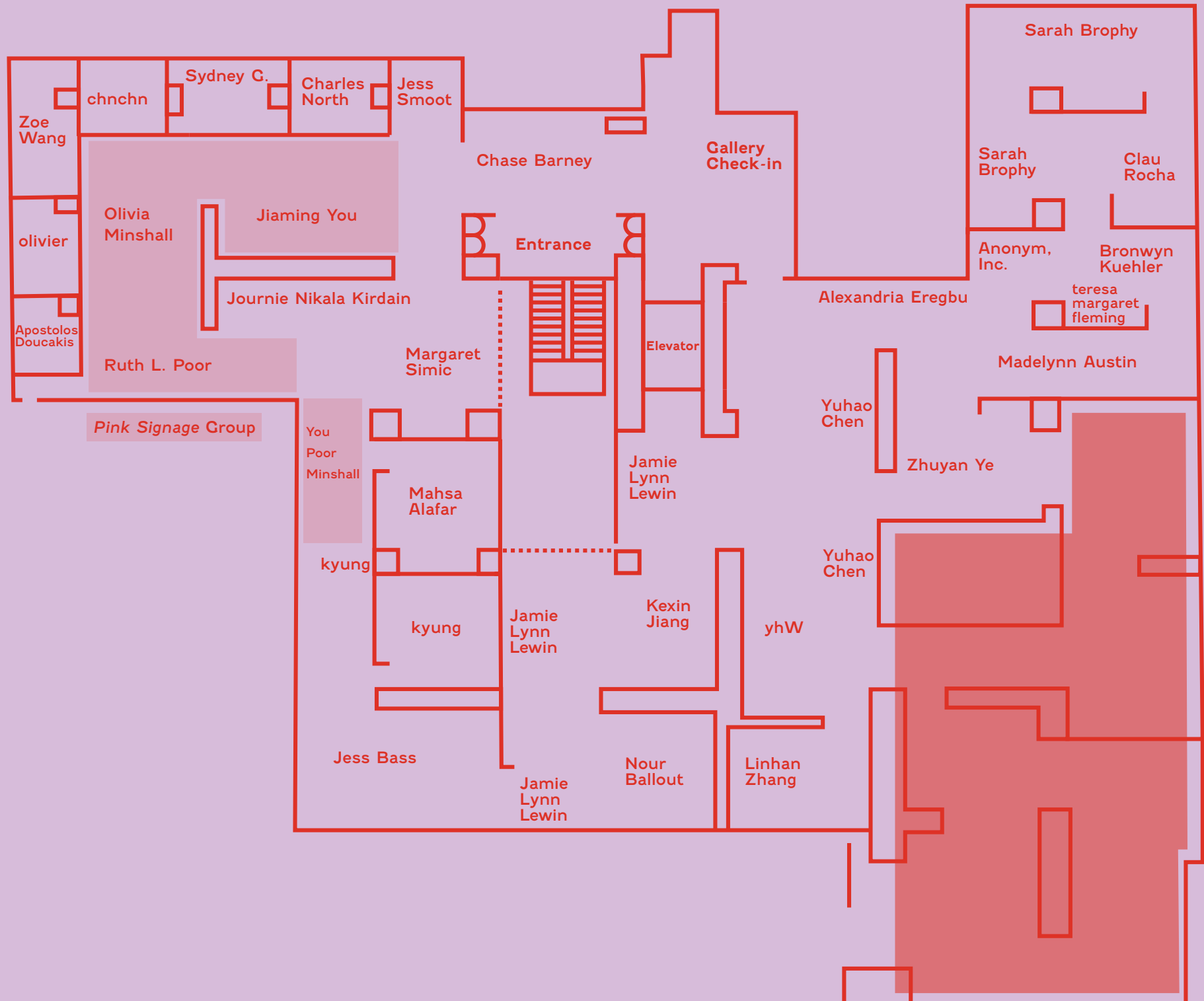
Inevitably, this will not be the last year of "firsts." The coming years are bound to bring changes that we will simply be unable to predict. Once we accept these terms, though, we can begin to understand fissures differently—not just as sites of pain, but also as openings filled with possibility and potentiality. This year's graduate exhibitions are a manifestation of how we as artists and arts workers have sought to use this rupture as an opportunity to do otherwise, to take advantage of the flux, and perhaps most consequentially, to make meaning out of the fractures.

Elise Butterfield and Kathryn Cua  
Graduate Curatorial Assistants, SAIC Galleries

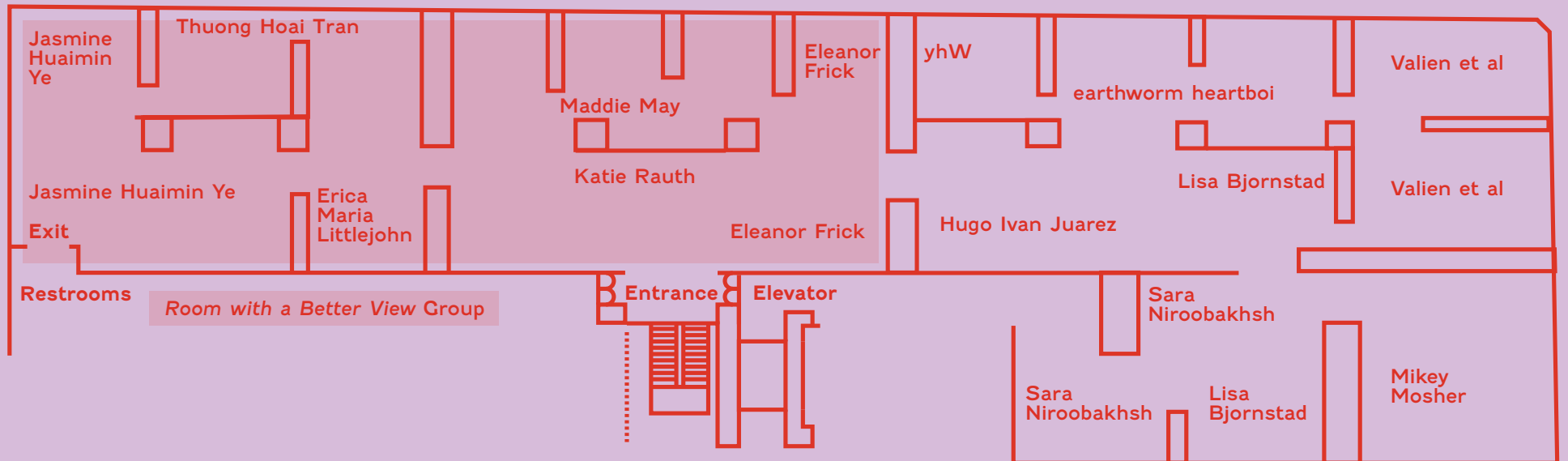
## Street-Level Gallery (L1)



## Lower Level 1 Galleries (LL1)



## Lower Level 2 Galleries (LL2)



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