

DEEP NEEDLE

by Angela Davis Fegan

March 3rd - April 23rd



In her solo exhibition DEEP NEEDLE, Chicago artist Angela Davis Fegan presents mixed-media portraits and letterpress posters drenched with queer desire. The 18 paintings and 200 letterpress prints collected in this feature range from antifascist political slogans, intimate self-portraits with a lover, and abstract renderings of life at the intersection of political identities.

Taking advantage of the gallery's window displays that span entire corner of the building, Fegan transforms materials from her letterpress studio — including handmade paper, scraps from artist books, and ephemera from her Lavender Menace poster project — into a site-specific commentary on intersectional identity and its representation in printed and figurative media.

Rooted in resistance, particularly toward being made invisible or ignored, the works included in DEEP NEEDLE also speak to the “racial fault line” that co-prosperity's Bridgeport location sits above; given the neighborhood's history as a white enclave within a starkly segregated South Side of Chicago. “As a biracial queer woman, I have stood on that fault line my whole life,” Fegan says. “It creates a sense of precariousness that my experience can be erased at any time. My work is made to ensure that it will not be.”

Read more at coprosperity.org

Angela Davis Fegan transcends well beyond the second-wave feminist slogan “the personal is political” through her solo exhibition “Deep Needle”—an interdisciplinary display of mixed media portraiture and letterpress posters—that call and respond to the intimate political questions of our time. Whether it's resistance against the attacks on bodily autonomy and public health, against the violence of the police state, or the interrogations we make within our own communities around race, gender and sexuality. While struggle is constant, Fegan allows us a window into the natural world, preserved in the materials she uses in her figurative work: handmade paper, dried flora and plant life, menstrual blood mixed into varnish and paint. These works are very much alive, and invite us to confront the barriers placed upon us—even those we place on ourselves—as a means of reaching further toward liberation.

- Aricka Foreman

About the Artist

Angela Davis Fegan is a native of Chicago's South Side. A graduate of Chicago's famed Whitney Young High School, she received her BFA in Fine Arts from New York's Parsons School of Design and her MFA in Interdisciplinary Book and Paper Arts from Columbia College Chicago. Angela has mounted shows at Galerie F, Chicago Artists' Coalition, the DePaul Art Museum, The Center for Book Arts (NY), the University of Chicago's Arts Incubator and Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, the Hyde Park Art Center, SAIC's Sullivan Galleries, Columbia's Glass Curtain Gallery and SPACES (OH). Her work has been selected for book covers including *The Truth About Dolls* by Jamila Woods, *Secondhand* by Maya Marshall, and *All Blue So Late* by Laura Swearingen-Steadwell. Her MFA thesis and ongoing work: the lavender menace poster project, has been written up by *The Offing* (LA Review of Books), *Hyperallergic*, *Chicago Magazine*, the *RedEye*, *Go Magazine*, *Pop Sugar*, the *Chicago Reader*, and *Newcity*.

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About Co-Prosperity

Co-Prosperity is a gallery and HQ for Public Media Institute: a non-profit organization that brings you independent media projects like *Lumpen Magazine*, *Lumpen Radio*, and *Lumpen TV*, a gallery in upstate New York, *Buddy* (an artist store at the Chicago Cultural Center), and *MdW*: a coalition of artist-run organizations in the Midwest.



1. **Olympia** (2020) 24" x 30"
acrylic, handmade paper, dried
flowers, bark, menstrual blood and
letterpress prints on wood panel.

2. **Uterine** (2023) 24" x 36"
acrylic, handmade paper, vinyl, dried
flowers, leaves and letterpress prints
on wood panel.

3. **Vexed** (2020) 18" x 24"
acrylic, dried flowers, menstrual
blood and letterpress prints on
canvas.

4. **Acrobat** (2022) 36" x 24"
acrylic, vinyl, handmade paper and
letterpress prints on wood panel.

5. **Quarantine Dream** (2021)
60" x 36"
acrylic, handmade paper, menstrual
blood, rose petals and letterpress
prints on wood panel.

6. **Gate fold** (2021) 15" x 30"
acrylic, colored pencil, paint marker
and handmade paper on canvas.

7. **Venus** (2020) 18" x 24"
acrylic, paint marker, letterpress
prints and fabric on canvas.

8. **Entanglement** (2023) 36" x 24"
acrylic, menstrual blood, handmade
paper, letterpress prints and rose
petals on wood panel.

9. **Supine twist** (2021) 30" x 15"
acrylic, menstrual blood, letterpress
prints, human hair and book cloth on
canvas.

10. **Each & Opposite** (2023)
48" x 60"
acrylic, house paint, letterpress prints
and menstrual blood on wood panel.

11. **Vibranium** (2020) 30" x 30"
acrylic, colored pencil, letterpress
prints, handmade paper, rose petals
and menstrual blood on canvas.

12. **Voyage** (2020) 40" x 30"
acrylic, colored pencil, letterpress
prints, rose petals, menstrual blood,
fabric and lamb heart laminated in
handmade paper on canvas.

13. **Maya Fog** (2023) 24" x 26"
colored pencil, letterpress prints,
recycled denim handmade paper,
rose petals, eucalyptus, and
menstrual blood on wood panel.

14. **Voodoo** (2020) 24" x 18"
acrylic, colored pencil, handmade
paper, letterpress prints, rubber ink,
and rose petals on canvas.

15. **Liminal** (2021) 30" x 24"
acrylic, handmade paper, menstrual
blood, rose petals, human hair and
letterpress prints on wood panel.

16. **Split hem** (2021) 15" x 30"
acrylic, colored pencil, paint marker,
letterpress prints, handmade paper,
and book cloth on canvas.

17. **Gyneology** (2022) 30" x 15"
acrylic, letterpress prints, menstrual
blood, and vegan leather, on
reclaimed wood.

18. **Pilsen Window** (2022) 48" x 60"
inches, acrylic, handmade paper,
menstrual blood, vinyl, human hair,
incense sticks and thumb tack on
wood panel.