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CHANDLER GALLERY PRESENTS *VESTIGE*

A TWO-PERSON EXHIBITION OF WORK BY GALE ANTOKAL AND CATHERINE KO CHEN

Exhibition dates: 2 May – 14 June 2025

MILL VALLEY, CALIFORNIA – CHANDLER GALLERY is pleased to present *Vestige*, a two-person exhibition of works by Bay Area-born and London-based painter Catherine Ko Chen, and Berkeley-based multimedia artist Gale Antokal, on view from May 2nd through June 14th, 2025. An opening reception will be held on Friday, May 2nd from 6 to 8pm. All are welcome to attend.

This exhibition brings together Chen's airy, abstract acrylic paintings and Gale Antokal's soft figurative flour, ash, graphite, chalk and pastel works. Both Chen and Antokal use their work as an avenue of exploring memory. Chen's practice examines the ephemeral nature of moments as they transform into memories, reflecting the duality of both the transient and the persistent. This is achieved through a layered, dynamic process where remnants of the past are deconstructed and recontextualized, tapping into her experience of what is remembered, what those memories become, and how these are represented after some time and distance. Her practice is concerned with the invisible labor of sense-making, focusing on how meaning is attributed to experiences and how those experiences are categorized. Quietly pulsating colors and sweeping marks create luminous, gestural forms, each piece reads almost as a physical translation of memory: wispy, always in flux, and never fully tenable, but nonetheless enduring.

Antokal works with memory through her media subject matter, as she so gently renders places without specificity, horizon lines or even a vanishing point that feel familiar and often photographic not only through their realism, but also through the way in which they embody the mood of a private, quiet moment immortalized via photograph. "I like thinking about the fact that usually a sense of "place" is perceived when there are two descriptors. An "above" and a "below" and the relation between the two," Antokal has stated. "Usually, the consequent edge is a horizon." Antokal finesses various combinations of graphite, chalk, pastel, flour and ash onto the paper surface, using her index finger to achieve rich, delicate tonalities. Working from photographic imagery of people, places and things, she studies and interprets

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images – her own, from books, or from the Internet – filtering them through her personal perceptions to tease out nuances of meaning and the nature of seeing, being and remembering. Chen's abstract paintings become artifacts of her experience while Antokal's work toys with and emulates a more universal experience and memory.

Catherine Ko Chen is an artist from San Francisco, currently based in London. Recent exhibitions include solo shows at Etesian Gallery (Menorca, ES) and Problem Library (San Francisco), as well as group shows with Warbling Collective (London, UK) and North Coast Asylum (Cornwall, UK).

Gale Antokal was born in New York, New York, and received her BFA (1980) and MFA from the California College of the Arts in 1984. She is a Professor Emerita at San Jose State University in the Department of Art and Art History and was Coordinator in the Pictorial area. Antokal held several visiting artist positions and teaching positions including the San Francisco Art Institute, Instructor of Art History at the Lehrhaus Institute, and the American College in Jerusalem. In 1992 Antokal received a Visual Arts Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. She has exhibited regularly with Chandler Gallery, Mill Valley, CA, Patricia Sweetow Gallery, San Francisco, CA, Seager Gray Gallery in Mill Valley, CA, Maya Frodeman Gallery, previously Tayloe Piggott Gallery, Jackson Hole, WY, Amy Simon Fine Arts, Westport, CT. She has also held exhibitions at Sanchez Art Center in Pacifica, CA and Cabrillo College in Aptos, CA. Antokal's work is included in public, private, and international collections.

Chandler Gallery is proud to partner with Problem Library, a 501(c)–3 organization in San Francisco that provides a nurturing environment for students to realize their potential, guides alumni and working artists to pursue fulfilling and challenging work, and encourages the broader community to step beyond just being a professional- to become role models and leaders in their communities. Chandler Gallery has committed to donating 10% of all sales of Chen's works to Problem Library.

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Catherine Ko Chen, *Holding Pattern*, 2021, acrylic on canvas, 60 x 45 inches, 61 ½ x 46 ½ inches



Gale Antokal, *Space 1* (left), *Space 2* (center) and *Space 3* (right), 2006, chalk, graphite, flour and ash on paper, 50 x 38 inches, 57 ¾ x 44 ¾ inches framed



Catherine Ko Chen, *It had become familiar*, 2021, acrylic on canvas, 45 x 60 inches

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Chandler Gallery is a contemporary art gallery, founded in March of 2025 by Chandler Simpson. Sitting on the edge of Mill Valley's historic town square, the gallery finds profound reciprocity in its place. Embracing the pluralism of its positioning, Chandler Gallery finds grounding and influence in the innate mysticism of Mount Tamalpais and the towering redwoods of Muir Woods a stone's throw away, in addition to the bustling cultural locus of San Francisco nine miles to the south, just over the Golden Gate Bridge. Mill Valley is a historic and artistic hub that has long-centered the arts, and we are excited to be a part of that. Committed to championing the art of emerging and established artists, and bringing new perspectives to the Marin community, the gallery is excited to pursue culturally engaged exhibition programming.

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