## **Death Drive**

### **June 21 – July 26, 2025**

**Opening Reception: Saturday, June 21, 5–8 PM
Location: SPCE Gallery | 5200 Glen Arm Rd, Glen Arm, MD 21057**

SPCE Gallery is proud to present *Death Drive*, a group exhibition featuring works by **Jonathan Santoro**, **Meredith Sellers**, **Catherine Mulligan**, and **Gregory Kalliche**. On view from June 21 through July 26, 2025, the exhibition investigates destruction as a seductive and generative force—an uncanny drive toward unraveling, collision, and transformation.

Borrowing its name from Freud’s concept of the *Todestrieb*, or death drive, the exhibition draws parallels between psychological compulsion and the cultural machinery of spectacle, collapse, and compounding crisis. Here, the car crash serves as metaphor: at once sudden and inevitable, mechanical and mythic. Each artist contributes work that blurs the boundaries between intent and accident, control and chaos, attraction and violence.

*Death Drive* is not merely a contemplation of destruction—it is a critical celebration of its seductive mechanics. When collapse becomes strategy, and ruin becomes aesthetic, what remains is a landscape of charged gestures, magnetic failures, and uncanny elegance.

**Jonathan Santoro** is a Philadelphia-based artist working in project-based installation and sculpture to explore societal fractures, alienation, and social disengagement in American culture. He has exhibited at Peep Projects, Swivel Gallery, Rosenwald Wolf Gallery, and The Zimmerli Art Museum, and his work has been featured on David Zwirner’s *Platform:*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, *Whitehot Magazine*, and WHYY. He holds an MFA from Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University and was recently awarded an Independent Creative Production Grant from the Sachs Program for Arts Innovation.

**Meredith Sellers** is an artist and writer living and working in Philadelphia. She holds a BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art and an MFA from the University of Pennsylvania. Conflating the centuries-old concept of painting as window with the infinite windows of the digital screen, her works utilize images appropriated from stock photography, digital advertisements, art history, and news media to examine systems of power and violence. Sellers has exhibited at Workplace (London, UK), Fragment (NY, NY), Swivel Gallery (NY, NY), Take It Easy (Atlanta, GA), Rosenwald-Wolf Gallery at UArts (Phila, PA)[,](https://thepressureclub.wordpress.com/2019/09/02/opening-soon-death-in-multiples-by-meredith-sellers/) Vox Populi (Phila, PA), and ICA Philadelphia (Phila, PA), among others. Her work has been featured in *Paper Magazine*, *Artsy*, *Art Papers,* *Maake Magazine,* and White Column’s Curated Artist Registry. Curatorial projects include *Chewing the Scenery* at Icebox Project Space, *The Midnight Sun* at Pilot Projects (both co-curated with Jonathan Santoro), and *Edith* at Esther Klein Gallery. Her writing has appeared in publications including *Hyperallergic*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, ICA Philadelphia’s *Notes*, *Pelican Bomb*, and *American Craft Magazine*.

**Catherine Mulligan** creates paintings that confront the viewer with uncanny juxtapositions of reality and distortion. Working with observed environments alongside the manufactured illusions of advertising, Mulligan produces surreal storefronts and fragmented models that invoke a suburban dystopia—rendered in muted grays, scraped and reapplied, always slightly off. She holds an MFA from Indiana University and is a two-time recipient of the Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Grant. Mulligan has recently exhibited at Bonner Kunstverein (Bonn), Kunst im Tunnel (Düsseldorf), Hans Gallery (Chicago), and Gern en Regalia (New York). She lives and works in New York.

**Gregory Kalliche**, born in Miami and now based in New York, creates video and sculptural works that explore themes of disaster, simulation, absurdity, and mediated spectacle. With a background in both fine art and experimental media (MFA, Rhode Island School of Design; Skowhegan 2015), Kalliche’s work often pairs sci-fi humor with lo-fi effects to depict systems on the brink—whether ecological, technological, or spiritual. He has held solo exhibitions at the New Museum (New York), Interstate Projects (Brooklyn), Helena Anrather (NY), and Winter Street Gallery (MA), and has shown internationally in exhibitions at CAPC Musée d'art contemporain (Bordeaux), Exo Exo (Paris), and the Triennale Art & Industrie (France). His videos and performances have been featured in venues including Montez Press Radio, Berlínskej Model (Prague), and Echo Park Film Center (LA).

Gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays from 11 AM to 3 PM, and by appointment. For press inquiries or to schedule a private viewing, contact spcegallery@gmail.com. For more information, visit [www.spce.gallery](http://www.spce.gallery/) or follow along on Instagram at [@spce.gallery](https://instagram.com/spce.gallery).