



Ethnic Arts Council

ALISON SAAR – *Uproot*



March 2, 2023 • 4:30 - 6 pm

LA Louver • 45 N. Venice Blvd. • Parking opposite gallery

Under the titled **Uproot**, this exhibition highlights the artist's exploration of racialized gender inequity and reproductive rights inspired by the images of the Sable Venus and the use of herbs used for abortion as a means of resistance and revolution. Numerous scholars agree that the Sable Venus is one of the most perverse images of the transatlantic slave trade. It was initially launched as an illustration by painter Thomas Stothard for the third edition of Bryan Edwards **The history, civil and commercial of the British colonies in the West Indies**, published in 1801. The image featuring a nude Black Venusian figure reminiscent of Sandro Botticelli's Birth of Venus (1485-1486) was made to misrepresent the Middle Passage, the infamous, forced voyage of enslaved Africans across the Atlantic Ocean. For the new painting and sculpture, **Mutiny of the Sable Venus** (2022), Alison Saar reinterpreted the mentioned historical image. The female figure rides the catfish and holds in one hand a conch and in another a machete, a tool used for harvesting. Saar's Sable Venus, thus, symbolizes feminine fertility and environmental purification while channeling the spirit of Yemaya, an African water deity in charge of reproductive health.

An artist-led tour of a new exhibition with refreshments to follow

Limited to 40 members only • [RSVP HERE](#)

Watch Artist Video at Work • [HERE](#)