



Images courtesy of the Larry Myers

## Neither Men nor Gods but Something Closer to the Former Sierra Faust and Benjamin Havey

February 6<sup>th</sup> – March 14<sup>th</sup>

Opening Reception: Thursday, February 6, 5-7 PM

Piano Recital at 6PM featuring compositions by Saariaho, Kim, and Murail

The UMKC Gallery of Art is pleased to present, *Neither Men nor Gods but Something Closer to the Former* an interdisciplinary & collaborative performance and exhibition by artist Sierra Faust and pianist Benjamin Havey. This exhibition is part of the *NEXUS Integrated Arts Series*. Both will produce work from a common source text, Hesiod's *Works and Days*, which serves as a conceptual guide for the form and content of the exhibition. *Works and Days* is a didactic poem in which the speaker addresses his younger brother, admonishing him to commit to a life of dedicated agricultural labor which will place him in good moral standing. Hesiod views this commitment to work as the path towards righteousness. The exhibition addresses the idea of repetitive commitment to labor through the two artistic practices and processes, drawing and piano playing.

Faust's work focuses on language, observation, and drawing as a record of meticulous day-in day-out work. The work explores the laborious practice of hand copying texts and the exacting process of collecting, observing, and archiving found objects. Havey's work as a pianist focuses on the intertextuality between common practice classical music, post-war classical music, and living composers. His programming creates narrative and sonic dialectics through deep and methodical engagement with extended works of classical music, revealing hidden connections between disparate styles. This exhibition hopes to advance thinking that questions the boundaries and constraints of individual disciplines by addressing common aesthetic and conceptual concerns through two different lenses. As a collaborative team, they aim to address issues of interdisciplinary conceptual exploration and explore new sets of constraints shared across mediums as a generative starting point for process-based exploration.

Sierra Faust is a Kansas City based artist. She received her bachelor's degree in Sculpture from the Kansas City Art Institute in 2018. Sierra works in program administration at Literacy KC. Her work has been shown at Beco Gallery, NARS Foundation Gallery, and Vulpes Bastille.

Benjamin Havey is a classical pianist based in Kansas City. He has worked with many composers to prepare their works for concert, including Zhou Long, Martin Bresnick, Jake Runestad and Chaya Czernowin. His solo programs often integrate premieres, common practice repertoire, and recent classics. As a collaborative pianist, he frequently works as a vocal coach and has premiered dozens of chamber works by young composers. He is currently a doctoral candidate at University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) where he studies with Thomas Rosenkranz and Robert Weirich.