



RHONDA

WHEATLEY

There Are Universes...



Rhonda Wheatley

There Are Universes...

November 9, 2023–February 16, 2024

There Are Universes. . . is created on the premise that humans can only perceive .0035% of the light/energy spectrum, a concept that intrigues Wheatley as both an artist and energy healer. Her practice not only investigates this notion but asserts that there is vastly more to reality than what we can sense physically. The exhibition, through a combination of visual artworks, interactive installations, workshops, and hybrid performances, excavates how we might tap into that other 99.9965% of reality, even if only for a glimpse of its potential. Each of these immersive experiences encourages us to employ our imagination and suggests that we possess senses beyond the physical realm, which can aid us in transcending the limitations of the 0.0035%. We may find ourselves connecting with subterranean realms where crystals flourish, where tree roots and mushroom mycelia establish intricate communication networks, or even attuning ourselves to the earth's rhythmic heartbeat deep below.

Glass Curtain Gallery

1104 S Wabash Ave, 1st Floor, Chicago, IL 60605

colum.edu/deps



Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO

department of exhibitions,
performance & student spaces | **deps**

Out of One, Many

by Adia Sykes

The first breath that you let out after walking into *There Are Universes...* is a welcome exhalation. The kind of exhalation from a breath that you did not realize you were holding until your shoulders drop from your earlobes or your brows slowly ease down from their perch near your hairline. Faint sounds of music and water float through the space, playing over vignettes of installations and artworks. The gallery is filled with a calming and healing sensibility as the result of someone whose practice has been strengthened and cultivated over decades of dedication.

Rhonda described first awakening to her purpose, at the age of five, as seeing secrets and wonder. Things were happening around her where words might have failed, but her perception of what was to unfold was clear. Like the joy of opening a crinkling candy wrapper, she would feel a prickling or hear a crackle that would spark a new bit of knowing. The excitement she experienced with rooting out an explanation for those inklings became a motivator. For there was much to be learned and discovered, and the universe was keen to reveal itself. She has always been a seeker of knowledge, never content with the absolute or the definitive.

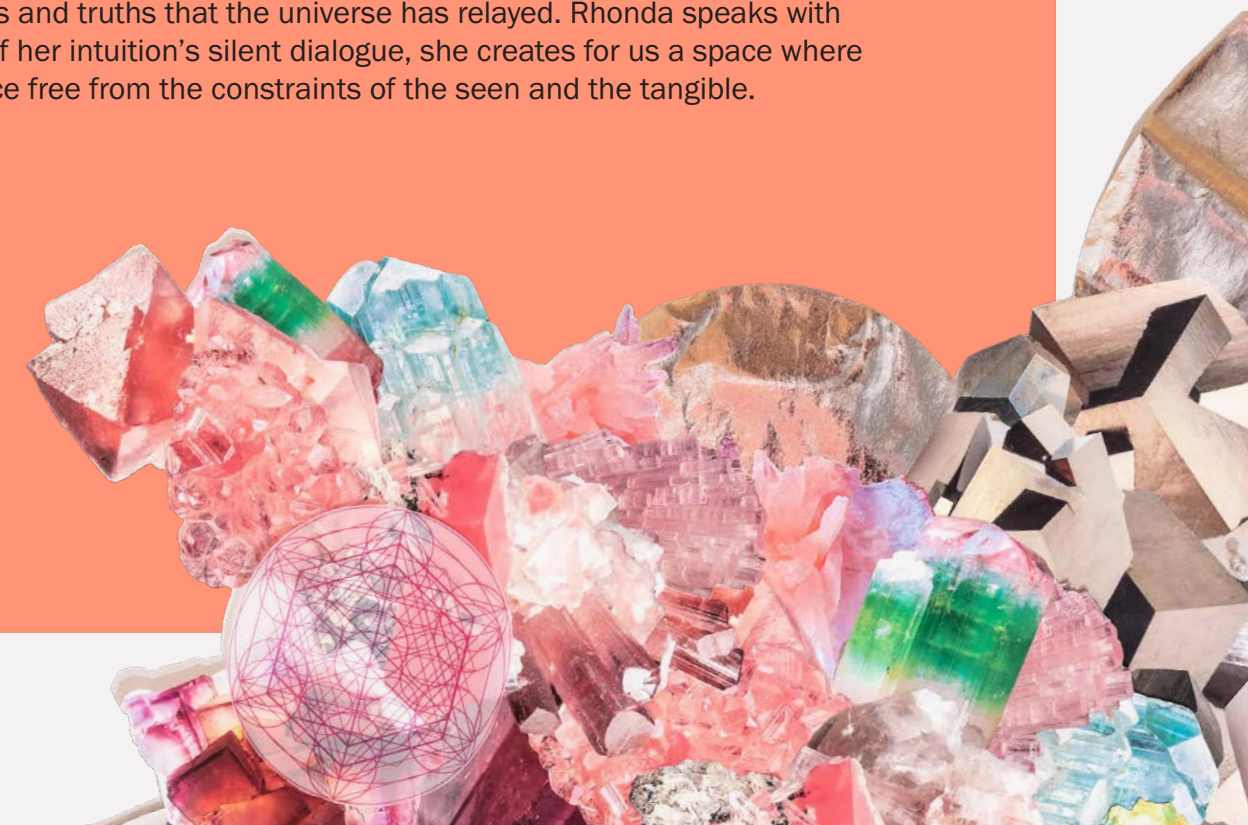
The work throughout *There Are Universes...* feels like another step in her continual process of seeking. With the central premise that human beings can only perceive a mere 0.0035% of the light and energy spectrum, Rhonda offers a space for viewers to tap into the remaining continuum. While her attuned eye and mind might have caught glimpses into the other 99.9965% of what remains imperceptible to most, the rest of us are invited to flex our own muscles of intuition and intentional listening so that the enigmatic poetry of the universe can reveal itself.

Space to ground the mind and body rests in the middle. The center of the gallery is a point of convergence where soft music plays from under wooden benches that put you in perfect proximity to turf, where you are encouraged to feel the ground beneath the soles of your feet. Just like her calling to unearth the secrets that the universe presents to her, Rhonda's music practice is also one of seeking. As a self-taught pianist, she learned music by ear through the

need to quite literally “find the notes” with practice, time, and deep listening. Throughout the space she experiments with sound—remixing and blending the bubbling of streams with singing bowls, tuning forks, and other synthetic sounds.

Multiple collages and installations blend photography, tarot cards, crystals, plant cuttings, and vintage pieces like rotary telephones to create visually stunning moments throughout the exhibition. Each piece invites the observer to draw closer, tracing the delicate lines of secrets interwoven in the intricate works. Colors collide like celestial bodies, forming constellations of images that only reveal their depth to those who dare to peer beyond the surface. Rhonda constructs these collages and installations as eloquent puzzles of time and intention, where every torn fragment holds a clandestine revelation, waiting to be unveiled by the mind and heart of the seeker.

Above all, Rhonda's practice centers truth-seeking and truth-telling. In her generous sharing of her practice of seeking and finding meaning in the patterns that present themselves through dreams, visions, and clairaudience, we are called to live in radical self-acceptance of our own gifts. Like the antennae of the vintage radios on the north wall of the space, *There Are Universes...* simultaneously calls us in to witness and do our own searching for knowledges and truths that the universe has relayed. Rhonda speaks with such fluency of her intuition's silent dialogue, she creates for us a space where we might dance free from the constraints of the seen and the tangible.





Rhonda Wheatley
There Are Universes...
November 9-February 16

Rhonda Wheatley There Are Universes...

November 9 – February 16, 2024

There Are Universes... is created on the premise that humans can only perceive .0035% of the light/energy spectrum, a concept that intrigues Wheatley as both an artist and energy healer. Her practice not only investigates this notion but asserts that there is vastly more to reality than what we can sense physically. Rhonda Wheatley's work communes with the natural world and evokes the connotation that meditation heightens awareness and can lead to a deeper understanding of metaphysical realms.

The exhibition, through a combination of visual artworks, interactive installations, workshops, and hybrid performances, excavates how we might tap into that other 99.9965% of reality, even if only for a glimpse of its potential. We may find ourselves connecting with subterranean realms where crystals flourish, where tree roots and mushroom mycelia establish intricate communication networks, or even attuning ourselves to the earth's rhythmic heartbeat deep below. Through this work, the possibility of shifting our consciousness to alternate dimensions that overlap with our own or journeying beyond the confines of time to receive invaluable guidance is ever present. Additionally, we might embark on a voyage into the universes within ourselves, where we may uncover joy, tranquility, healing, solutions, and new possibilities.

The .0035%
We Can Perceive



vs.

The Vast, VAST
Majority of What Is.

A Dramatization of the Light/Energy Spectrum.



Rhonda Wheatley
There Are Universes...
November 9 - February 16, 2024

There Are Universes... is created on the premise that humans can only perceive .0035% of the light/energy spectrum, a concept that intrigues Wheatley as both an artist and energy healer. Her practice not only investigates this notion but asserts that there is vastly more to reality than what we can sense physically. Rhonda Wheatley's work communes with the natural world and evokes the connotation that meditation heightens awareness and can lead to a deeper understanding of metaphysical realms.

The exhibition, through a combination of visual artworks, interactive installations, workshops, and hybrid performances, excavates how we might tap into that other 99.9965% of reality, even if only for a glimpse of its potential. We may find ourselves connecting with subterranean realms where crystals flourish, where tree roots and mushroom mycelia establish intricate communication networks, or even attuning ourselves to the earth's rhythmic heartbeat deep below. Through this work, the possibility of shifting our consciousness to alternate dimensions that overlap with our own or journeying beyond the confines of time to receive invaluable guidance is ever present. Additionally, we might embark on a voyage into the universes within ourselves, where we may uncover joy, tranquility, healing, solutions, and new possibilities.

The .0035%
We Can Perceive

vs.

The Vast
Majority

A Dramatization of the Light/Energy Spectrum



**The .0035%
We Can Perceive**



vs.

**The Vast, VAST
Majority of What Is.**

A Dramatization of the Light/Energy Spectrum.









SLOAN'S LINIMENT



VETERINARY USES EXTERNALLY: An effective counterirritant liniment for shoulder lameness due to Sprains; Bruises from Kicks; Muscular Swellings; Lameness and Pains from Straining and Sprains; Muscular Cramps; Contracted Muscles; Hip, Shoulder, Knee and Ankle Sprains and Strains; Wind Pulls; Muscular Lameness and Pains due to Over-exertion.

ITS
Cayenne
Oil
Tur-

Sloan
New York, N. Y.
St. Louis
DZS. (177 cc.)





OUTSIDE
TIME









Informational text or labels, possibly a QR code or a small sign, located on the white wall to the left of the orange wall.



OUTSIDE
TIME





Leave.
Leave.
Leave.



sometimes "present-day-you" is the
"future-you" who talks to you 5, 10,
or 20 years into the past. Take
"future-you" off the pedestal.











FREQUENCY
SHIFTING



FREQUENCY SHIFTING

© 2011
www.theresawilliams.com





*Relax. Breathe.
Eyes open or closed.
Heart & mind open.
Go deep within yourself.
Receive what you need.*

Relax. Breathe.
Eyes open or closed.
Heart & mind open.
Go deep within yourself.
Receive what you need.

'Realms Within' Meditation Space
Before Entering, Set an Intention.

Do you need to:

Send healing to past versions of yourself?	Let go?
Receive answers from future you?	Imagine more?
	Accept yourself?
	Dream bigger?
	Rest?

Please Remove Shoes Before Entering.



'Realms Within' Meditation Space
Before Entering, Set an Intention.

Do you need to:

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| Send healing to
past versions of
yourself? | Let go? |
| Receive answers
from future you? | Imagine more? |
| | Accept yourself? |
| | Dream bigger? |
| | Rest? |

As you return to the outer world. . .

What can you grasp from the
inner realms and bring back to
your everyday life?



There Are Universes... **Exhibition Checklist**

Untold Fathoms, Light Years, Gigaparsecs MORE Vast., 2021-2023
collage installation

Underground Networks, 2023
vintage telephones, ceramic-with-glass mushroom sculptures,
preserved mushrooms, living plants in glass vessels, preserved plants,
artificial plants, vintage vessels, crystals, and fossils

Elated Series Installation, 2023
collage and acrylic on wood panels

Guidance from the Oracles Collaborative Installation, 2023
marker on colored notecards

Notes to Myself from Future Me, Series 1-14, 2021-2023
digital collage

What If It All Works Out?, Series 1-24, 2023
collage on paper

Higher Dimension Installation, 2023
vintage clock radios, vintage television antennas,
crystals, and artificial plants

Clairvoyance + All the Other Clairs, 2023
mixed media collage installation

Realms Within, Open-Eyed Meditation Space, 2023
original soundscape, digital collage-based video, floor pillows, rug



Biographies

Rhonda Wheatley is a multidisciplinary artist, intuitive energy healer, and wellness workshop facilitator. Throughout the past nine years she has integrated healing-focused events into her art practice, which is grounded in the speculative, the metaphysical, and the spiritual. Her ultimate aims are to connect with people in deeply meaningful ways to help them achieve personal breakthroughs, cultivate radical self-acceptance, and to live more authentically, as she learns to do the same.

Wheatley has had recent solo shows at Glass Curtain Gallery and Hyde Park Art Center in Chicago and Aurora Public Art in Aurora. Recent group shows include the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, the Art League of Houston, and the Lubeznik Center for the Arts in Michigan City, IN. Wheatley has facilitated workshops across the Chicagoland area with Threewalls, where she's a Culture of Care Collaborator; 6018North, 3Arts, ACRE, Heaven Gallery, Chicago Artists Coalition, University of Chicago, Gallery 400, Lake Forest College, Urban Rivers, and more. Beyond Illinois, she has facilitated an international workshop with Creative Capital, retreat workshops at Indiana University, and online events with Buffalo AKG Art Museum, the Ox-Bow School of Art, and Artists at Work. Wheatley earned a BA from Loyola University and an MA from DePaul University and was a 2020 Loghaven Fellow, a 2023 Jackman Goldwasser Radicle Resident at Hyde Park Art Center, where she's taught for ten years, and was a recipient of CAC's Maker Grant. She is a certified energy healer of more than 13 years and practices several healing modalities.

Adia Sykes is a Chicago-based independent curator and arts administrator. Her current research examines the potential of curating as an advocacy tool for racial equity in the arts. Through her practice, she seeks to center philosophies of improvisation and intuition, engaging them as tools by which meaningful relationships between artists and viewers can be cultivated, while leaving space for the vernacular to mingle with constructs of history and theory. Her recent curatorial projects include *Locating Memory* in the Chicago Mayor's Office, *Project Radio London* at Centro Arte Opificio Siri in Terni, Italy, and *The Petty Biennial.2* in Chicago. She has also realized projects with the Art Institute of Chicago, Sullivan Galleries, Woman Made Gallery, Material Exhibitions, Roman Susan Gallery, and Comfort Station.

Sykes earned a Masters of Arts from the Department of Arts Administration and Policy from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2018 and a BA in Anthropology from the University of Chicago in 2016 with a focus on material culture and museums.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Adia Sykes for penning such an eloquent essay; the curatorial team of Mark Porter, Lauren Iacoponi, and Meg Duguid and their exhibitions team consisting of preparator Cassandra Meek and the student staff Zicky Delamarter, Rachel Manlubatan, Gray Beyer, and Reina Sundara for all their fantastic work in the exhibition's production, installation, and design of this catalog and Jonathan Michael Castillo for taking the exhibition photos.

The artist would like to thank the participants in *Guidance from the Oracles*; a collaboration between Rhonda Wheatley and 26 friends, artists, and arts administrators from Chicago's art community and beyond, developed as part of her 2023 Jackman Goldwasser Radicle Studio Residency at Hyde Park Art Center.

Rhonda is deeply grateful to the following *Guidance from the Oracles* collaborators: Jill LeCesne Potter, Arts Administrator; Georgina de la Torre, M.S. Clinical Psychology, Business Owner, Tarot Reader, & Student of Astrology; Jaclynn Fronczak, Artist, Entrepreneur, Design Student, & Future Freelancer; Gregory Smith, Arts Administrator; Mariela Acuña, Curator & Art Administrator; Tran Tran, Artist, Exhibitions & Residency Coordinator; Dennissa Young, Relational Artist; Marina Vulinovic, Arts Administrator/PhD Candidate in English; Stefona L. Coleman Reed, Wellness Director & Artist; Edna M. Togba, Nonprofit Manager, Adjunct Faculty, & Artist; Harley Reid, Multimedia Artist & Educator; Allison Cochrane, Arts Worker; Sara Cortés, Environmentalist, Farmer, Plant Medicine Maker, Artist, Art Administrator, Sister, Daughter, Compañera in the fight for Black & Brown Liberation; Jazmine, Museum Worker, Artist; Jacquelyn Carmen Guerrero, Finance & Operations Manager, Artist; Carisa Mitchell, Artist; Holly Cahill, Visual Artist, Independent Curator, & Arts Administrator; Jen Tremblay Chambers, Co-Executive Director; Larissa Fardelos, Artist & Writer; Sofia Merino Arzoz, Student & Designer; Jeff Robinson, Artist, Fabricator, Curator, & Preparator; Alex Herrera, Educator, Artist, DJ, Cat Mom, & Teen Programs Manager at Hyde Park Art Center; M. Noroy, Caretaker, Printmaker; Malika Jackson, Artist; Sofia Gabriel Del Callejo, Dancer, Curator, Performer, & Arts Administrator; Sam Foster, Printmaker

This project is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency, a state agency, through federal funds provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.



Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO