## The first state of the dark

## JANUARY 21 - MARCH 4

Opening Reception: Saturday, January 21, 6–8pm

WITH A PERFORMANCE BEGINNING AT 7PM, NAN RAE GALLERY



Tetiana Sklyarova Kayla Aguila

GALLERY HOURS: WEDS-SAT, 12-5PM



## ARTIST STATEMENT

Through costume-based performance and video, we build alternate universes that are populated by monsters, spawning a counter mythology and queering of existing norms. Our work is not human-centered. Instead, it privileges the monster, challenging what is/not human. The aggressive colors, ornate monsters and corresponding sets create a hyperreal setting of excess that fosters an overwhelming weirdness.

We draw inspiration from horror films, anime, video games and professional wrestling.

Our work manifests the ambient violence of capitalism to give abstract concepts of oppression form that can be physically engaged with. Our work questions individualism, both in practice and in content. Inherently collaborative, our practice also features other artists and performers, working together to create large scale works. We highlight the effects of atomization, and in contrast, the power of community. Our exhibitions create communal events, countering the alienation of capitalism. The representation of violence provokes an embodied response in the viewer, prompting a shared experience of becoming monster themselves. The playfulness of our monsters and lightness of the materials contrasts the brutality and gore of the performances.

## BIO

Beck+Col are a Los Angeles based artist duo who have been working exclusively in collaboration since 2014.

Beck+Col have performed at numerous venues including the Hammer Museum, REDCAT, and JOAN Los Angeles. They have had multiple solo exhibitions at Human Resources and their work has been exhibited worldwide including the Royal College of Music in Sweden, Colecci n AMALITA in Buenos Aires and at Biquini WAX EPS in Mexico City. B+C have received multiple FCA grants and were nominated for a Rema Hort Mann Emerging artist grant in 2019. They have been invited to host art education workshops and lectures with the Hammer Museum, the Craft Contemporary Museum, 18th Street Art Center and the City of Santa Monica.

In Spring of 2020, Beck+Col were the artists in residence for the San Diego International Airport Performing Arts Residency and represented LACE at the Art Los Angeles Contemporary Fair. B+C are the cohosts of ART TALK Talk talk, an art talk show created while they were in residency at UNLV in 2021. They were one of LAPP's Research and Development artists in Residence in 2022. In 2023, they will have solo shows at the Nan Rae Gallery at Woodbury University, the Angels Gate Cultural Center and Lauren Powell Projects.

Beck received their MFA from CalArts in 2019 and Collin received their MFA from CSULA in 2014.