everything was beautiful, and nothing hurt.
July 23, 2022 — January 8, 2023

Seattle, WA — This exhibition of moving image installations, drawn from the Henry collection, spans a wide range of style and conceptual approaches. The title references Kurt Vonnegut’s seminal anti-war novel Slaughterhouse-Five, a non-linear, meta-fictional narrative in which the protagonist struggles to come to terms with the devastating realities of human existence. The author poses fundamental questions that we must all combat, ever more so in the present moment in history. How do we deal with tragedy and pain? How do we explain it? Can we prevent it? Are there laws to life, and if so, do humans have any say in what these are? Does free will even exist?

Both satirical and yet deeply moving, the title phrase is imagined as the character’s epitaph and summarized the contradictions of his individual experience as well as the fragile concurrence of our collective existence: it is both impossibly false and yet deeply true. everything was beautiful, and nothing hurt. thus references a common thread running throughout this exhibition—the frailty, trauma, loss, and cruelty of the human condition that nonetheless is girded by an irrepressible desire for beauty, love, and connection. Via a myriad of formats and approaches, the artists in the exhibition suggest that we, as human beings, are ultimately responsible to acknowledge the heart-wrenching truth of life and still strive to create meaning within it.

Artists: Lutz Bacher, Sue de Beer, Candice Breitz, Nayland Blake, Guy Ben-Ner, Slater Bradley, Dora García, Rashid Johnson, Sharin Neshat, Kaari Upson, Gillian Wearing

everything was beautiful, and nothing hurt.is organized by Shamim M. Momin, Director of Curatorial Affairs. Support for this exhibition is provided by a gift from Charlotte Feng Ford. Media sponsorship provided by The Stranger.
ABOUT THE HENRY
The Henry Art Gallery is internationally recognized for bold and challenging exhibitions, for being the first to premiere new works by established and emerging artists, and for highlighting contemporary art practice through a roster of multidisciplinary programs. Containing more than 27,000 works of art, the museum’s permanent collection is a significant cultural resource available to scholars, researchers, and the general public. The Henry is located on the University of Washington campus in Seattle, Washington. Visit henryart.org to learn more.

Henry Art Gallery
University of Washington

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MUSEUM HOURS
Thursday: 10 AM – 7 PM
Friday – Sunday: 10 AM – 5 PM

ADMISSION
General Admission: $0-20 suggested donation
Free for Henry members, UW faculty and staff, children and students
Free on first Thursdays

INFORMATION
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