Haylee Ebersole  
Anna Wagner  
MACAA Conference Proposal  
*There’s No Success Like Failure...*

“By isolating failures one can investigate ones incapabilities as well as ones capabilities, opening up possibilities for questioning how structures and limits shape the world.”  -Robert Smithson

This panel examines the meaning of failure in contemporary art practices. Embracing the inevitability of failure is no new idea, as artists such as Robert Smithson have long capitalized on the possibility of error as a creative act. Failure provides the potential to realize the unexpected by taking risks and experimenting, thus opening spaces of opportunity and raising new questions. Contemporary artists strive to expand and challenge normative thought, and do so through the recognition of failure and the pursuit of the unknown. The artists presented in this panel address these ideas across a variety of mediums, utilizing traditional forms of drawing, printmaking, and ceramics in combination with new media, performance, and video. Relevance within the contemporary is the pursuit of all artists and is only attained through daring to fail while striving to succeed.