

Geographies of a Shifting World

Kathline Carr & Vicki McKenna

September 30–October 25, 2020

Opening Reception: Friday, October 2, 2020 | 5–8PM (tentative)

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FOR PRESS-READY IMAGES CONTACT: Marie Craig at director@fsfaboston.com, (774) 286-1800



BOSTON, MA – Beginning September 30th, Fountain Street Gallery will exhibit “Geographies of a Shifting World,” featuring the work of Kathline Carr and Vicki McKenna. Carr and McKenna share an interest in elemental landforms and geological processes. Carr’s drawings, paintings, and monotypes are in conversation with McKenna’s photography-based prints. They implicitly share an interest in human interaction with the natural world. Their current work has a common focus of climate change. Carr utilizes multiples and repetitious mark-making allowing patterns, gestures, and forms to represent her feelings of despair and hopelessness about current climate. McKenna’s photo illustrations combine multiple images intended to collapse present and future into one image that suggests the result of sea level rise.

Kathline Carr's paintings, drawings and monotype prints in this series are derived from closely observed geological features, folded into a process-based abstraction. The stylized mountain drawings on cloth and paper are drawn of small linear marks, and these refer not only to tonal gradation, but of the accumulation of steps that makes up a hike through mountainous terrain. They serve as studies that are in dialog with the oil paintings and monotypes. All are part of a larger mindfulness practice, utilizing multiples and repetitious mark-making to allow feelings of despair and hopelessness about current planetary climate issues to manifest physically into patterns, gestures, and forms. Referencing imagery of mountainous and glacial terrain, geological mappings, or imaginary realms, these scenes emphasize the elemental in landforms, spoken through memory and visual space.

Carr earned a BFA in Creative Writing from Goddard College, VT, with concentrations in Visual Arts and Feminist Philosophy, and holds an MFA in Visual Arts from The Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University. An author as well as visual artist, her recent book Miraculum Monstrum (Red Hen Press), won the Clarissa Dalloway Book Prize from the AROHO Foundation and was an Award Finalist in the "Fiction: Cross Genre" category of the 2017 and 2018 Best Book Awards. In addition to AROHO, her work has been supported by grants from the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, Assets for Artists and she has exhibited her art in New York City, Boston, New England and Canada. She lives and works in the Berkshires and is a Core Member at Fountain Street.

With this work, **Vicki McKenna** creates images that are meant as harbingers from the future. They present the intertwining of environments as sea level rises. The selection of locations to photograph is informed by, but not limited by, maps of projected sea level rise of 6 feet, a possibility by 2100.

Each photo illustration is a montage of two or more images with one representing the current environment and the other images representing a possible future. In the final montage the juxtaposition of time, before and after, is implicit. The composite image is not meant to be a scientific thesis, but a metaphor for a possible result of climate change. In some images it is easy to identify the elements of the individual photographs. In others, the blending of photographs creates an image that almost seems realistic. The ambiguities of scale and detail in the montage are intended to create a sense of discontinuity or unease. This unease mimics the way that we experience the current changes in climate. These changes are discoverable to greater and lesser degrees, and we are unsettled because we find it difficult to separate weather from climate; daily variation from long-term change. The Earth has a history and our environment is ephemeral, and we must accept that. Our choice is whether to continue to be the agents of change at a disturbingly historic rate.

McKenna earned an ALB in Natural Sciences from Harvard University and a PhD in Geological Sciences from Brown University. While teaching she started taking photographs of geologic features to use as examples in class. Soon she became challenged by the task of representing a three-dimensional world with an engaging, two-dimensional image. McKenna studied photography at the New England School of Photography, the Photography Atelier at the Griffin Museum, and Maine Media Workshops. McKenna has exhibited throughout New England and along the East Coast in solo, two-person and group shows, including at the Firehouse Center for the Arts, the Danforth

[FOUNTAIN STREET]

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Museum, Framingham, MA, the Cambridge Art Association, Cambridge, MA, PhotoPlace Gallery, Burlington, VT, and the Kiernan Gallery, Lexington, VA. She has taught a freshman seminar focused on photography at M.I.T. McKenna works from Riverwandering Studio in Newton, MA. She is a Core Member at Fountain Street.

Image Information

Left: Carr, *Fragnet*, oil and graphite on canvas stretched over panel, 2019

Right: McKenna, *Crane's Beach, Gloucester* (detail), archival pigment print, 2020

About Fountain Street

Fountain Street is a contemporary gallery in the SoWa Art + Design District of Boston. We exhibit a wide array of media from over 30 emerging and mid-career artists in both our main and annex galleries. Founded in 2011, our passion has always been about connecting art seekers and makers through thoughtfully curated exhibitions, juried shows, collaborative projects and installations. Our deep commitment to local artists and frequent rotation of new exhibits offers visitors a fresh and dynamic art experience.

Contact

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