

Crystalle Lacouture

Evening's Evening



October 20 to November 26, 2023

Artist Talk with Jessica Shearer

October 21 from 4-5 pm at Coolidge Corner Theater

Registration required [here](#)

Opening Reception Saturday

October 21 from 5-7 pm

(Brookline, MA – September 20, 2023) Praise Shadows Art Gallery is honored to present the upcoming exhibition *Evening's Evening* by Crystalle Lacouture, her first solo at the gallery. An entirely new body of work comprising unique block prints, oil on canvas paintings, and a new set of her highly praised MAMA Drawings made on target practice sheets will be on view. The exhibition will also feature the debut of the installation *House Jewelry*, a towering arrangement of beaded strands cascading from the ceiling to the ground, adorning the physical space while also inviting visitors to physically engage in a tactile healing experience vis-a-vis touch and sounds. Moved by personal loss, and grief over our nation's gun violence epidemic, Lacouture's artistic practice can be interpreted as the channeling of love and devotion. Her sensitive and masterful use of geometry, repetition, and color are evident throughout the painting, drawings,

and installations. The cohesiveness of her practice helps to create an intentional atmosphere for a moment to pause. Indeed, the exhibition title *Evening's Evening* is from the last line of the Jake Skeets poem *Daybreak*, in which the poet observes and describes nature's daily subtleties through the sensitive and expansive words of his native Diné language. Lacouture views the quote as a finetuning of an already divided parcel of time, or a moment within a moment.

The largest work in the exhibition is *Half Mast (21 for Uvalde)*, 2023, a framed group of 21 drawings on Score Keeper shooting targets. Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, and since her mother's terminal cancer diagnosis, Lacouture has created these abstract devotional drawings as a daily practice. Using gouache and colored pencil on the fixed configuration of printed targets and text of the Score Keepers, the drawings are an intervention to the original purpose of the material. These works reclaim, subvert, and redirect the power of a material representing violence with one that references care and healing. As with the original iterations of these works, each drawing is embedded with the word *MAMA*, a reference to the artist's mother, a universal word of love across multiple languages, with the artist's "chop" and signature completing the piece. Each drawing here stands in as a memorial acknowledgement and prayer for the 19 children and two teachers killed in the mass school shooting in Uvalde, TX in 2022.

Included in the exhibition is a new series of paintings, which the artist intends as stations of energy exchange with the viewer. Using a language of shapes, close colors, and symmetrical compositions, the paintings talk about through spaces and invented worlds. In *Blue Mask*, 2023, a geometric field of triangles, circles, ovals and continuous dotted lines create a depth of space that appears to radiate from within a central focal point. The viewer is confronted with a symmetric arrangement of orange-red pupil eyes, which stare outward as if in a mode of protection reminiscent of archaic beast motifs known throughout many ancient cultures. This painting appears to continuously auto-generate from within, resonating infinite shapes, colors, and relationships.

The eight large woodblock prints on paper, a series titled *24 Hours*, represent a sequence that correspond to aspects of the everyday. Lacouture creates shaped woodblocks that she prints in layers and hand embellishes with type, linocut, and drawing to poetically describe the range of experiences in a day, from the quotidian duties of work and meals referenced in *Working and Morning Table*, to observations of awe inducing-nature in *First Light* and *Evening's Evening*.

House Jewelry is an ongoing project of multiple long strands of strung beads on wire with necklace-like clasps fastening each strand. These adornments for interior and exterior architecture anoint and protect the place in which they hang. Like the nods to temporality in the rest of the exhibition, the beads and bells in *House Jewelry* represent passing time and the accumulation of devotional intentions amassed for power. The viewer is invited to touch and explore the colorful wooden beads, pinwheels, and bells as they pass.

Along with the work in *Evening's Evening*, Lacouture has published her first book with Edition One Books in San Francisco titled *Eleven Months (Touching the World)*. The book is the

culmination of an 11 month mourning vigil for her mother in which the daily photographs of Lacouture's hand experiencing the world are collected and become their own sequential memorial to experiencing the world without a loved one. As these self-portraits are virtually faceless, the collection is a tribute to others in mourning, who can imagine all the days experiencing the world after loss. *Eleven Months (Touching the World)* will be available

An artist's talk with writer Jessica Shearer will take place on Saturday, October 21 from 4 to 5 pm at the Coolidge Corner Theatre. Registration is required (visit [here](#)) as space is limited. The exhibition's opening reception immediately follows the talk, from 5 to 7 pm, and registration is not required.

About the artist

Crystalle Lacouture is an artist based in Boston and North Adams, MA. She received her BFA in Painting/Printmaking from Skidmore College, where she received the Pamela Weidenman Award for Excellence in Printmaking. She has been a Resident Key Holder Artist at the Lower East Side Printshop and has attended residencies at the Fine Arts Work Center (Michael Mazur Printmaking), Surf Point Foundation, Vermont Studio Center, the Vanguard Mastheads, Contemporary Artist Center, and Room 83 Spring. In addition to her full-time studio practice Crystalle is a curator at Tourists, a hotel near Mass MoCA in North Adams, MA. She was recently profiled in Boston Art Review and interviewed on the podcasts, "I Like Your Work" and "Artist Mother Podcast". She exhibits her work throughout New England and New York and is represented by Praise Shadows Gallery.

About Praise Shadows Art Gallery

Praise Shadows Art Gallery is a contemporary art program based in the Boston area with a focus on exceptional artists working in all artistic disciplines. Our worldview is informed by the notion that the artworld's untapped and unrecognized potential is worth cultivating, supporting, and championing. Since our founding in December 2020, the gallery has placed artworks by our artists in esteemed public collections, and our exhibitions have been covered widely in major international media outlets. Our work is grounded by partnering closely with artists to develop opportunities in traditional and emerging models of creativity and entrepreneurship — exhibitions, commissions, brand partnerships, new technologies, and original concepts that no one has ever tried before. www.praiseshadows.com

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IMAGE CREDIT: Blue Mask, 2023, oil on canvas, 40 x 35 inches