

**PRAISE
SHADOWS**
ART GALLERY

Pelle Cass
Tossed

April 11, – May 17, 2024



Opening Reception

Thursday, April 11 from 6-8 pm

Artist Talk with Sarah Montross, Senior Curator at the deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum

Saturday, April 27 at 3pm

Registration is required. [Register here](#)

(Brookline, MA – February 13, 2024) Praise Shadows Art Gallery is honored to present *Tossed* by Pelle Cass, the Boston-based artist's debut exhibition at the gallery. Cass is celebrated for his still time-lapse images that condense hours of movement and visual minutiae into a single frame. The photographs present objects in a confused levitation, sometimes defying gravity, and always in surprising acts of rising, cresting, and falling.

An artist talk between the artist and Sarah Montross, Senior Curator at the deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, will take place on Saturday, April 27 at 3pm. The event takes place at the Coolidge Corner Theater; registration is required. [Register here.](#)

Tossed is a presentation of never-before exhibited works. A grouping of eight photographs on one wall features outdoor scenes where colorful, round objects – basketballs, wiffle balls, tennis balls, apples – arc and bounce in such abundance, as if about to push beyond the frame and into the viewer's own physical space. What appear to be images of multitudes, however, are actually the labor of one man and a few chosen objects.

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Cass sets up a wide lens low to the ground, points to the sky, and tosses for hours, capturing the items as they rise into the sky and fall to the ground. Besides the balls featured in the exhibition, objects as varied as jacks and marbles explode against the sky to resemble fireworks, colorful silk neckties flail in the air like a flock of birds taking flight. Examples of these other types of objects are also on view in the exhibition.

Installed on the wall opposite is a solitary self-portrait, itself a timelapse of emotions and gestures. The sparseness and simplicity of this installation is intentional, as it provides the viewer space to navigate feelings of confusion or discomfort elicited from the image. With the camera zoomed onto his face, multitudes of hands poke and stretch his eyes, nose, forehead, and lips. The portrait recalls the grotesque art of Renaissance era, a genre that came about as a response to the stillness and composure of classicism in art of the time. Similar to his object-focused images, the self-portrait evokes a lack of control while also, as Cass states, adding “a feeling of life.” Whether tossing or distorting, the photographs jostle our perceptions of the states of being. The dynamics of movement express a compression of energy where moments of suspense, pleasure, and anxiety are all at play.

About the Artist

Pelle Cass is a photographer from Brookline, Massachusetts. His work is in the collections of the Fogg Art Museum, the deCordova Museum, the Peabody Essex Museum, and the MFA Houston. His photographs have appeared in publications such as *Beaux Arts Magazine*, *McSweeney's*, *GQ*, *The New York Times*, *Die Zeit*, *The Atlantic*, *The Economist*, and many others. *New York Magazine* commissioned Cass for the cover of its celebrated end of year 2022 “Reasons to Love New York” issue. He has received fellowships from Yaddo, the Polaroid Collection, and the Artist's Resource Trust. He's published the monograph “Pelle Cass” (Just an Idea), and contributed to the books *Photoviz (Gestalten)*, *Deleuze and the City* (Edinburgh University Press), *Langford's Basic Photography* (Focal Press), and *The Beautiful Sparkle: Optical Illusions in Art* (Prestel), *ICP Concerned: Global Images for Global Crisis* (G Editions).

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: Pelle Cass, *Plastic Figures, Marbles, Jacks, Grass: A Positive Crisis*, 40 x 60 inches, Inkjet print, 100% rag paper, matte finish, From the series, "Tossed," 2023.