

CRYSTALLE LACOUTURE

PORTABLE COORDINATES



**Opening Reception: April 24, 2026 from 6-8 pm
On view through June 6, 2026**

Thursday, May 7, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm

**Artist Talk moderated by Kate McNamara, John R. & Barbara Robinson Family Director,
Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts at Harvard University**

[Registration required](#)

(Boston, MA – April 2, 2026) Praise Shadows is honored to announce *Portable Coordinates*, the gallery's second solo exhibition by Crystalle Lacouture and the first solo presentation at the new Downtown Boston location. Expanding on her printmaking, painting and installation practice, Lacouture unveils an entirely new body of work, comprising illuminated sculptures, paintings on paper and on board, woodblock prints, *MAMA Drawings* on scorekeeper shooting targets, and flags that are both artwork and wearable pieces. Also included is the newest iteration of *Half Mast*, a memorial for gun violence victims made from a compilation of drawings. The breadth of these materials and formats reflects Lacouture's steadfast exploration of symbols and codes as forms of communication.

The gallery will host an artist talk with Lacouture moderated by Kate McNamara, the John R. & Barbara Robinson Family Director, Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts at Harvard University, on Thursday, May 7 from 6:30 to 7:30. The event is free, registration is required [here](#).

Portable Coordinates is inspired by the 1952 book by H. A. Rey, *The Stars: A New Way to See Them*, which opened up and simplified the lay person's understanding of the constellations. According to Lacouture, "I'm deeply inspired by Rey's poetic and accessible translation of something as vast and intangible as constellations into portable and highly relatable narrative images." Lacouture views the story of H. A. and Margret Reys (who created the *Curious George* books and were long-time residents of Harvard Square, Cambridge) as a truly American one: they were refugees who settled in the local area and left a lasting cultural impact. Lacouture's show expands upon *The Stars* and her ongoing interest in elemental symbols to offer an interpretive experience of navigation, connections, memorials, and care.

Central to the exhibition is a group of six new sculptures titled *Free Beacons*. Lacouture arranged and reworked vintage nautical signal flags to be stretched across wooden obelisk structures. Installed on a mirrored floor surface, the six together resemble a floating fleet. Reminiscent of lighthouses or navigational signals, four of the six works represent the nautical flag letters: S-A-F-E. On the 250th anniversary of America's founding, *Free Beacons* evoke local Revolutionary signal lanterns, analog navigational code systems, and the use of glyphs to stand in for language.

The most prominent two-dimensional work is *Half Mast 52 Weeks (Somebody's Baby)*, Lacouture's fourth large-scale monument to America's unwaning epidemic of gun violence. A compilation of 52 drawings mounted to suggest a flag at half mast, the support for each drawing is a small NRA pistol target sheet. Each sheet is drawn with white flowers and smaller yellow flowers. Most of the sheets read like a bouquet, the flowers abundant. The 52 sheets each represent weekly tallies of children in America killed by gun violence in 2025: each white flower represents a teenager, and each yellow flower represents a younger child. The artist asks the viewer to consider a translation from an abstract statistic, to a mapped symbol, into the recognition of a young life lost.

In the spirit of Rey's simplification of the vast cosmos into a more legible shorthand, Lacouture expands on her series of *Flags to Fold in Pocket* with the new body of work, *Night Sky Maps*. The portable maps convey the magnitude of the stars via stamped star symbols on a cosmic background, with each constellation labeled using its common and Latin name. Made with delicate Sekishu paper, the material's durability is enhanced by manipulating, folding, and dyeing it dozens of times. The process strengthens the paper's fibers while creating a soft, fabric-like texture. Whether someone carries it in their back pocket, or frames it, or crumples it up, these weathered and durable maps are meant to go the distance as guides for finding light among dark times.

Artist Bio

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 is a recipient of a 2025 Mass Cultural Council Grant for Creative Individuals and is the artist for the 2026 My Home Court project in Providence, RI. She has been an artist-in-residence at the Fine Arts Work Center (Michael Mazur Printmaking Fellow), Kala Art Institute, Surf Point Foundation, Vermont Studio Center, Lower East Side Printshop, and at the Aspen Art Fair. Her recent commission for the Worcester Art Museum's "Wall at WAM" is a 70 foot long mural titled *Correspondence (For Elizabeth Bishop)*. Her work is in the collections of the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth, TX, Boston Public Library, Worcester Art Museum, Tufts University Art Galleries, MIT, Google, Fidelity, Beth Israel Hospital and others. She has been profiled in Boston Art Review, and her work has been reviewed in the Boston Globe, Whitewall, and Art News. In addition to her full-time studio practice, Crystalle is a Co-Founder of Arrival, a biennial art fair in North Adams, MA. She exhibits her work throughout the country and is represented by Praise Shadows.

About Praise Shadows Art Gallery

Praise Shadows Art Gallery is a contemporary art program based in Boston 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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Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 11 am to 6 pm

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