

“Remainder Remains”

Tatiana Flis & Elizabeth Alexander

August 28–September 29, 2019

Reception: Friday, September 6, 2019, 5:00–8:00 PM

Tea and Talk: Saturday, September 7, 2019, 3:00–4:00 PM

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“zero divergence” by Tatiana Flis



“Courtyard” by Elizabeth Alexander

BOSTON, MA—Beginning August 28th Fountain Street opens an exhibition by Tatiana Flis. and Elizabeth Alexander. **“Remainder Remains”** offers a rich combination of abstract and concrete imagery where the illusion of balance and solidity shift and disorient space. In highlighting that which has been left behind, the exhibit evokes the memory of what has been taken, forgotten, lost, or stolen. An initial impression reveals other potential realities, as in a counterfactual narrative, and gradually discloses their layers of meaning.

Through the use of found imagery and collage, common threads emerge between the two artists. They each unearth elements of human behavior and emotion that we culturally tend to ignore. In addition, “Remainder Remains” features drawing and sculpture, and includes a sound and image series referencing the Gardner art heist. Throughout the gallery, the artists’ shared themes of disappearance and desire take hold. The result is an exhibition of generational loss and the marks of what remains.

Tatiana Flis’ large, monochromatic, abstract drawings evoke living forms such as plants and the human body. These biomorphic forms create an illusion of space pushing in all directions. Flis’ intricate and complex shaded masses are joined by architectural and constructed forms that meld the abstract with the concrete.

These components intermingle, through loose mark-making and meticulous graphic renderings, creating remnants of lost energy that are pulsating at the edge of the subconscious.

Complementing Flis' large drawings are sculptural works and smaller works on paper. In her smaller works, Flis constructs improbable combinations of collaged, sculpted, and drawn images to form surprising and odd relationships. The use of historical illustrations, combined with contemporary fashion clippings and objects, creates unexpected portraits of our environment. These works highlight the similarities and differences in the way we process and interpret our surroundings.

Trifling with relics of the American Dream, **Elizabeth Alexander** upends antiquated ideals and promises through a labor-intensive process of deconstruction and reconstruction. She faces her own dreams, delusions, and desires while scrutinizing impositions on such aspirations through media, advertising, and cultural nostalgia. Appropriating once coveted domestic symbols of beautification and success such as wallpaper, upholstered furniture, and porcelain ware, Alexander's collages and décollages survey the cost and absurdity of social climbing through material veils: dreamlike scenarios that are both familiar and foreign with a frequent shift in mood, a neutered utility, a composite make up, or a hidden hollowness.

Alexander's works are anchored by a series she began in 2015 as Polly Thayer Starr Artist Series visiting artist at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. In "Rearranging the Gardner," Alexander and her husband and collaborator, sound artist Todd Bowser, invited visitors to remove items from printed images of the galleries, and to read for a 'sound collage' about items in the museum's collection. The sound and image collages have not been available for public viewing since the workshop. The project takes the historic theft, and the overwhelming presence of those absent items in the galleries, and pairs it with insight into what visitors decide to extract and keep in the Gardner. The project is a love letter to an institution that shaped Alexander's aesthetic fascinations, including its public display of loss.

Tatiana Flis is a mixed-media artist who creates drawings and sculptures that recall the sacred and ethereal moments of discovery that often dissipate in the face of pragmatism. In offering the viewer a familiar landscape, she allows access into private worlds not unlike our own, creating connections across boundaries of time and space. Flis earned an MFA in Sculpture at Cranbrook Academy of Art and a BFA in Sculpture and Printmaking from Ringling College of Art and Design. She has been featured in Artscope Magazine and reviewed in The Boston Globe. Flis has participated in multiple art fairs in Boston and Chicago and has recently been awarded creative residencies at Drop, Forge & Tool in Hudson, NY and the Vermont Studio Center, VT. Her work has been shown extensively in the United States and is collected internationally. Flis is currently the Arts Festival Director and Program Administrator of the Boston College Arts Council, and the Assistant Director at Fountain Street Gallery. She works from her studio in Millbury, MA.

Elizabeth Alexander is an interdisciplinary artist specializing in sculptures and installations made from deconstructed domestic materials and cast paper. Through labored processes separating decorative print from found objects, she unearths elements of human behavior and hidden emotions through manipulations of the stuff of our past. She holds degrees in sculpture from the Cranbrook Academy, MFA, and Massachusetts College of Art, BFA, where she discovered the complex nature of dissecting objects of nostalgia. Alexander has received fellowships from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the St. Botolph Foundation, the Barbara Deming Memorial Fund, and was awarded the title "Best Artist of Boston" in 2014 by Improper Bostonian magazine. Alexander's work is included in permanent collections at the Crystal Bridges Museum in Bentonville, AR and the Mint Museum in Charlotte, NC. She is currently an Associate Professor at the UNC School of the Arts.

Todd Bowser is a Librarian, Sonic Atmosphere Maker, Ill-Tempered Pacifist, Future-Primitivist, and Bassist living and working in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He primarily collaborates with Elizabeth Alexander.

[FOUNTAIN STREET]

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[Fountain Street](#), a resource for artists, art-lovers and collectors, is a contemporary gallery in Boston, MA that exhibits the artwork of thirty emerging and mid-career artists.

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