

HEADSTONE

Almost Simpatico

Anne Currier and George Hrycun

February 4 – 28, 2023

For Immediate Release:

Headstone is thrilled to announce our first exhibition of 2023, *Almost Simpatico*, with artists Anne Currier and George Hrycun. The show features a range of Currier's ceramic sculptures from 1998 to present. Looking like carefully chiseled stone, they are assertive, stoic, and timeless. Hrycun presents a new body of colored pencil drawings, a voyeuristic glimpse through a seemingly torn sheet of paper. The exhibition rests on language and how we project and receive stories in the shared experiences of life.

Currier's new work titled *Prompts: Act Two* suggests a kind of theatrics. Each ceramic work is set atop a small, wooden stage outfitted with settings made of printed imagery - a digital drawing, photograph, or texture. The ambiguous prompt requests the viewer to imagine a tale that perhaps came before. Currier writes, "As the process of partnering images and objects evolved, the notion of using cropped areas of my drawings as environmental settings came into play." Using expression in all its forms, a signature of good theater, you experience the object's stare back at itself like one would in front of a mirror. The problem with sculpture, as Peter Schjeldahl famously wrote, "we have to *deal* with it." For Currier, the jostling of idea, object, and intent is imperative to developing the visual language long before you see a title. After decades of crafting material, writing, and formal composition, one witnesses fearless and deliberate storytelling in Currier's work that is about feeling - everything.

Within his drawings, Hrycun builds a pictorial background beyond the picture plane. His Ukrainian heritage situates itself in his titles, layering color and outwardly familiar imagery to find that the luscious, pinkish purple hues are bruised flesh (*M'YASO*, 2022). Gravity and knowledge harmoniously unite in language, and for Hrycun, this is the parallel to one's curiosity and discovery. His career spans a material investigation and expertise that is wizard-like and profound. A piece of paper masquerading as a picture of its wounded self - torn, is an image, a photo, a moment- captured. Hrycun willingly ushers in the fictitious notion to dream, and it is met with the reality of truth. Sondheim wrote in his infamous classic *Into the Woods*, "oh if life were made of moments, even now and then a bad one, but if life were only moments then you'd never know you had one." Hrycun's works suspend disbelief for a moment, each an immeasurable instant riddled with hope.

The word "simpatico" is used to describe a perfectly intertwined relationship of ideas or people. Or is it? Both the Spanish and Italian words are directly translated to mean "sympathetic" or simply, nice; however, in the late 19th century, its translation deflects more than it defines. According to Anna Stowe, Professor of Translation and Interpreting Studies at University of Manchester, the English translation insinuates a connected duo, and utilizes Giovanni Boccaccio's *Decameron* translation into English in defense of simpatico's origin. The contemporary Western usage of simpatico is incorrect; it seems that language, once again, is adopted by communities of people, regardless of its origin's intent, and a collective non-negotiable agreement moves forward.

During their forty years as a couple, Currier and Hrycun have never exhibited their work together. Upon entering Hrycun's studio in a building shared with Currier, the welcome mat greeting is printed with the words "Wipe your feet." It is a directive pointed at Currier's perpetual dust ball that follows any artist working with clay. Nonetheless, it tells one so much about a relationship that is built over time, living with habits, tendencies, and accepting all of it (sometimes). Support and motivation – the truest simpatico – underlie their work and practice, outweighing any differences. Each is committed to their own formal aesthetics and approach with a shared seductive sophistication, building an illusion to elsewhere. Headstone Gallery is honored to present the work of these dedicated artists in *Almost Simpatico*.

Anne Currier is a sculptor whose medium is ceramic. She has been recognized as a major figure in contemporary ceramic art since the early 1980's, exhibiting her sculptures nationally and internationally. In addition to numerous private and corporate collections, Anne's sculptures are held in the permanent collections of museums across the world including LACMA, The Metropolitan Museum, and The Smithsonian. Her major commissions include Arrow International in Reading, PA and Miller Theater in Alfred, NY. Currier holds degrees from the School of the Art Institute, Chicago (BFA 1972) and the University of Washington, Seattle (MFA 1974). She taught ceramic art at the University of Colorado, Boulder from 1975-1984. From 1984 until 2016, Anne was a professor of ceramic art at the New York State College of Ceramics, School of Art and Design at Alfred University. Anne retired from Alfred University in 2016, recognized as professor emerita.

Intrigued by how ordinary visual circumstances, having an ambiguous character, possess the capacity to be developed into compelling imagery is the crux of what sparks George Hrycun's work. His current focus is on drawing and its scope of possibilities. His images make use of either colored pencil or graphite powder as their medium. He has exhibited his work nationally and internationally and is in the collections of Bill Gates, Malcolm Forbes, Ivan Karp, and others. In 2015 he was a fellowship recipient through the New York Foundation for the Arts. George holds a BA & BS from SUNY at Potsdam, New York, and an MFA from the University of Colorado, Boulder. He also received an AA in technical drafting in Colorado. Born in Niagara Falls, New York, he currently resides in the Town of Ward, Scio, New York, where he lives with his wife, Anne Currier.

Headstone is an artist-run, for-profit contemporary art gallery located in Kingston, New York, dedicated to showing two-person and solo exhibitions. The 1,100sq ft gallery space was created by artists Lauren Aitken and Chase Folsom. The gallery is deeply committed to our artists and their ideas, providing them with a beautiful contemporary space and the necessary support to help them foster and fulfill their artistic vision. It is with considerate curation and our vast love of the art world that we bring together and introduce emerging and established artists, some of whom have yet to benefit from wider critical and commercial attention. We believe the arts should be equitable and accessible to anyone who would like to engage. Through artist exhibitions, we hope that Headstone can collectively bring people together, create community, expand connections and become an engaging, diverse melting pot of artists, creatives, collectors, and community members.

Opening Reception: Saturday, February 4th, 5pm-8pm

Gallery Hours:
Friday to Sunday, Noon- 5pm
Or by appointment

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