

HEADSTONE

Vice Versa

Marina Fridman and Nick Lenker

June 4 - June 26, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Headstone is thrilled to present our inaugural exhibition, *Vice Versa*, a two-person show by Marina Fridman and Nick Lenker. Rendered entirely in charcoal, Fridman transforms the gallery walls into an astronomical viewing of our cosmos closer than you've ever experienced it. Enmeshed within the galaxy of drawings, Lenker establishes an in-person experience of objects from gaming culture - stacks of money, a jockstrap, a bag of Doritos- made of ceramic and digitally-crafted decals. Together these artists ask questions regarding our internalized perspective of self and how truly remarkable that experience impacts and shapes our understanding of the future.

Marina Fridman encourages us to focus on a larger, more inclusive picture of place in the universe. While her work is seemingly influenced by astronomy, Fridman demonstrates a more impactful meditative metaphor in her immaculate drawings of Earth, Mars, and Pluto's moons. Moving through the installation, the viewer experiences the grandness of becoming the central body around which the planets orbit, and the simultaneous insignificance of being engulfed in space. Fridman uses her illusions of space to create a moment of perspective and unity to counter the instability perpetually ushered in from news media and political powers. Anxiety and fear became fuel to empower healing and understanding. Seeping into a more cerebral experience, we are reminded of the phenomenological similarities we have with spaces we will most likely never visit.

Nick Lenker is known for his explorations in embodiment and disembodiment within the virtual realm of video games and social media. His new body of work introduces a physicality to these digital spheres, suggesting that it too is real. Drawing from his personal history, Lenker was raised as a Jehovah's Witness and believed the world would be destroyed by God and he would witness the destruction and recreation before entering adulthood. His life changed in an instant when his mother was disfellowshipped from the religion and divorced his father, all the while Lenker beginning to realize he was gay. The immediate dissolution of his reality required an element of escape. Video games offered a new world, a superficially rich aesthetic, virtual community, and anonymity. Lenker's sculptures become a talesman from these remote places. Our world is now being constructed with relative truths; are you still *you* in digital space? His decaded, ceramic objects are as potentially vulnerable as the electrical wire fueling its image based origin.

Together, Fridman and Lenker innovate a new lens for perceiving reality. They both are unsatisfied with just seeing an image. Why isn't it enough? Enveloped in a need to understand, these two artists create an experience that satiates their time being alive trying to make sense of what questions aren't getting answered. Headspace and craft are in constant negotiation as the object becomes image or vice versa. The foundational technology to this exhibition rests in the inescapable awe of the human hand. If one unpacks the beginnings of documenting images of outer space or attempts to unravel the history of video games, you are diverted back to the fingertips. Thus, their artworks are evolved tools and mechanisms representative of extensions of the body.

Marina Fridman holds an MFA in Sculpture and Dimensional Studies from Alfred University, and a BFA from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. She is a three-time recipient of the prestigious Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Grant, an Edmonton Arts Council Grant (2022), a Canada Council for the Arts Grant (2020), and the Manifest ONE Prize (2019). She has been awarded residencies at MacDowell, the I-Park Foundation, the Vermont Studio Center, the League Residency at Vyt, the Manifest Gallery, the Boreal Electroacoustic Music Society (BEAMS) Residency in Estonia, and the invitational ArtBnB Jerusalem Residency. Marina's work has been published by Hi-Fructose Magazine (online), Booooooom, Art in America, ACS Magazine, the Manifest International Drawing Annual, Foundations of Drawing (Random House), North Light Books' Art Journey, and Strokes of Genius. Her works have been exhibited and collected in the US, Canada, and the Middle East. She lives and works in Alberta, Canada.

Nick Lenker holds an MFA from Tyler School of Art and a BFA from The University of the Arts with a ceramic focus. He recently completed a residency at The Clay Studio in Philadelphia from 2016 -2021. In 2019, Lenker completed the courtyard commission for Project Home's most recent housing project, the Gloria Casarez Residence (an LGBT focused homelessness prevention project). He has been nominated for a Pew Fellowship, as well as a US Artists Fellowship. In 2019, he was selected as one of NCECA's Emerging Artists. In 2020, Lenker had a solo exhibition at the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum. In 2021, he was included in the international exhibition of ceramic art for Art Macau, in Macau, China as well as in the Korean International Ceramics Biennale. Lenker is in collections at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston and The Alfred Ceramic Art Museum as well as numerous private collections. He lives and works in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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 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 who 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 June 4 2022 5pm-8pm

Gallery Hours: Friday - Sunday Noon- 5pm

Monday & Thursday by appointment only

Closed Tuesday & Wednesday