

# HEADSTONE

## *On Purpose*

Beck Lowry and Ashley Lyon

April 6 - April 28, 2024

For Immediate Release:

Headstone is thrilled to launch our 2024 season with, *On Purpose*, a two-person exhibition showcasing the works of Beck Lowry and Ashley Lyon. Lowry's meditative process spills into the experience of their work - meticulous and seemingly calculated cutting and carving- producing what looks like an organic blossoming of life - gestative, respiring, sensual. Contrasting that cycle, are a series of enlarged, still points on the body by Ashley Lyon parallel to that of a microscope. Lowry and Lyon present an unexpected shift in scale and presence where one may contemplate life and its demise all at once.

Like any relationship, regardless of commitment, we are intertwined. Lowry's lifesize works confront and grapple with one's connectivity to another - pieced, wrapped, conjoined. Up close, carefully sanded triangles, undulating lines, and ubiquitous patterns fill the interiors of the web-like structures. Stain and milk paints soften the edges, pushing and dividing the foreground, like a painting. Their work is anything but immediate- one can feel Lowry watching, waiting, living - patiently looking for what the work needs - a listener. Their "bowls", singular, petal-like structures operate as billowing incantations. Together, their works meander like an opus, with whispers and rustlings about. Lowry is an alchemical conductor.

Emotions usually feel larger than life. In Lyon's new body of enlarged figurative sculptures, she unapologetically delivers experiences of parenthood and what she calls its "ever- slipperiness". To say caregiving is complex is like saying change is effortless (maybe after the dust settles). However, in Lyon's acceptance of self and decisive efforts, she unveils physical observations in the chronically aware exchange between parent and child. Lyon choreographs a growth pattern in scale - newborn to toddler- each glowing with a fleshy sheen - proud, stoic, and in moments, gleefully naive. In *Muffin Peanut Bean*, Lyon recalls a neighbor's child barreling through the front door of her studio to arrive at Lyon razor-focused on her wet clay sculpture, only to have the child poke their finger into the surface of the manicured object. That momentary experience is perhaps Lyon's foundational ethos enacted - a willingness to accept rather than reject.

Elaine Scarry says "beauty is a starting place for education." This found truth becomes a curious act when one beautifies an object, material, or language (song). Thus the rehearsed, 'beautified', intentional gestures pose a seductive relevance becoming an object of learning - artist and viewer alike, an artifact/document of civilization. Furthermore, it becomes part of the ever-growing lexicon in the world building that art so graciously inserts itself. *On Purpose* rallies for learning as the most noble inclination one can possess especially if they intend on leaving us with their offspring; only the very best one can hope for.

Beck Lowry (b.1980 in New Haven, Connecticut) has exhibited in New York at Elijah Wheat Showroom, Art Miami, Select Fair, and Volta, and in Los Angeles at Klowden Mann. Their work has been featured in Maake Magazine and New American Paintings, and reviewed in Artforum. Lowry has completed residencies at Millay Arts and Interlude and their work has been acquired by numerous private art collections and is part of the collection at Gateway Community College in New Haven, CT. Lowry holds a Bachelor's Degree in Economics and a Certificate in African Studies from Smith College. Lowry lives and works in Connecticut.

Ashley Lyon (b.1983 in Palm Springs, CA) lives and works in Newburgh, NY. She received a BFA in Ceramics from the University of Washington and an MFA in Sculpture + Extended Media from Virginia Commonwealth University. Lyon has been awarded residencies at the Archie Bray Foundation, Anderson Ranch Arts Center, the European Ceramic WorkCentre, and the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts. She is an NYFA Fellow (Sculpture/Crafts 2023) and an Elizabeth Greenshields Grant recipient (2011 and 2014). Her work has been exhibited at Bemis Center for Contemporary Art, Omaha, NE; Hunter College, New York, NY; SUNY Cortland, Cortland, NY; The Sculpture Center, Cleveland, OH; Alfred Ceramic Art Museum, Alfred, NY; Elijah Wheat Showroom, Newburgh, NY and Jane Lombard Gallery, New York, NY. She is currently an Associate Professor of Art at New Jersey City University and lives and works in Newburgh, NY.

Headstone is an artist-run contemporary art gallery established in 2022 by co-directors Lauren Aitken and Chase Folsom, Headstone is a 1,200sq ft gallery specializing in contemporary artwork showcased through two-person and solo exhibitions. Our commitment lies in championing our artists' ideas, processes, and finished works, ensuring their sales and livelihoods are supported. We offer a contemporary space along with essential assistance to nurture and realize their artistic vision, recognizing the importance of artwork fitting into life. With meticulous curation and a profound love for the art world, we unite emerging and established artists, some yet to receive broader critical and commercial recognition.

We advocate for equity and accessibility in the arts, striving to welcome all who wish to engage. Through artist exhibitions, Headstone aims to foster community, forge connections, and cultivate a diverse melting pot of artists, creatives, collectors, and community members.

Opening Reception: Saturday, April 6th, 5pm-8pm

Gallery Hours:

Friday - Sunday, Noon to 5 pm

Or by appointment

Headstone Gallery

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