

HEADSTONE

Tongue and Groove

Erik Frydenborg and Mykola Haleta

September 3 - 28 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Headstone is delighted to announce our fourth exhibition, *Tongue and Groove*, a two-person show featuring the works of Erik Frydenborg and Mykola Haleta. Frydenborg presents a body of striking wall-mounted sculptures and works in the round made of basswood and poplar. His enlarged Lichtenstein-esk, fruit rind-ish works are delicately hand-painted and arranged- slick, color saturated, and exquisitely balanced. Haleta, known for his analogue algorithms, mounts twenty-four vibrant, intricately- cut and stacked paper grids that make Instagram seem like a model. The glaringly apparent investment in research and refinement from both artists presents a kind of call and response on high alert, satiating precision imperative for their seemingly tight, mechanical logic.

Erik Frydenborg's work begins with the aesthetic experience of language, specifically infographics pulled from digitally rendered data. He says, "Whether a result of organic decay—the gradual degradation of known truths over time—or of the deliberate contortion of facts into disinformation, these warped remnants of unanchored knowledge linger as chimerical ambiguities, rumors, and myths." Thus the sculptures are acknowledgements of our fumbling and unwavering desire for facts - perhaps a talisman to our past worlds. Using abstraction as a tool, Frydenborg instigates storytelling with his sculptures founded in a real experience, pushing on our instincts to name, separate, and organize. While one does so, new information is created and irrevocably suspended until a decisive truth takes hold and anew begins.

Haleta's puzzling new works remind one of the distinctive differences between a labyrinth and a maze; a mazes' intention is to confuse and the labyrinth is to *just* be. Like the labyrinth, there is repetition without an end goal for the maker nor the viewer. Similarly, the experience of his work is adventurous where one may begin to lose track of time. Mykola says, "I care equally for formal arrangements of color and shape as I do for matters of human behavior. In particular, the cyclical pathways of life within a landscape have long captured my attention. As individuals travel, by foot, by car, or by bus, they create circuitous loops—and almost always return to an origin point." His work is a meditation fueled by endless conundrums that inform his routine, as he finishes one task, a new one emerges- different, sometimes difficult, but forward.

Gene Wilder plays one of his most iconic roles in Mel Stuart's 1971 musical fantasy, *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*. Wilder's character, Wonka, is charming, mysterious, with unflinching integrity, as he traps his guests in a hallway on their plot-defined tour and says, "you'll have to go forward to go back." Its ambiguity and cultural incongruence stir up a panic, a sentiment that is most welcome in *Tongue and Groove*. The work anchors itself from wherever the viewer begins their search and that informs them regardless of direction. Consciousness being the predecessor to awareness, Frydenborg and Haleta take an open dive into their histories- decades equivalent to a moment- and resurrect the details of the past.

Erik Frydenborg was born in Miami, Florida, and grew up in rural York County, Pennsylvania. He holds a BFA from MICA in Baltimore, MD, and an MFA from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, CA. Frydenborg has held solo exhibitions at The Pit, Glendale, CA, Andrew Rafacz Gallery, Chicago, IL, Albert Baronian, Brussels, BE, The Suburban, Oak Park, IL, and Cherry and Martin, Los Angeles, CA. Previous group exhibitions include NADA House, New Art Dealers Alliance, Governor's Island, New York, NY, 100 Sculptures, Anonymous Gallery, Paris, FR, Divided Brain, LAVA Projects, Alhambra, CA, Real Shapes, Dateline, Denver, CO, Skip Tracer, M. LeBlanc, Chicago, IL, Knowledges, Mount Wilson Observatory, Los Angeles, CA, Re-Planetizer, Regina Rex, New York, NY, Brian Kokoska/TRAUMA SAUNA, ASHES/ASHES, Los Angeles, CA, Full House, Shanaynay, Paris, FR, BAD BOYS BAIL BONDS ADOPT A HIGHWAY, Team Gallery, New York, NY, Trains, Night Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, Set Pieces, Cardi Black Box, Milan, IT, and The Stand In (Or A Glass of Milk), Public Fiction, Los Angeles, CA.

Frydenborg's work has been reviewed in Artforum, FlashArt, and The Los Angeles Times, among other publications. From 2017 through 2019, Frydenborg was a partner in the cooperative artist-run Los Angeles gallery AWHRRHWAR. Erik Frydenborg lives and works in Los Angeles.

Michael Mykola Haleta is an artist, educator, curator/collector, graphic designer, pattern designer and independent image researcher based in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Michael's work has been featured in Zoo York/New York Skateboards, SF Weekly, Shout NY, De:Bug, The New Yorker, The WIRE, Final Cut Pro 4: The Art of Filmmaking, Tokion, The Sound Collector, BLOCK, XLR8R and Giant Robot among others. He has a BFA from MICA (Maryland Institute College of Art) where he studied graphic design. In 2017 he received an MFA in Electronic Integrated Arts from The School of Art and Design at The New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University in Alfred, NY. Haleta's audio compositions and performance projects have been performed and presented nationally and internationally at festivals, galleries, and institutes including: Bauhaus University, Weimar, Germany; London Contemporary Music Festival, London, UK, SXSW, Austin, Texas; Issue Project Room, NY, NY, Whitney Museum Graduate Program, NY, NY; Under Bron, Stockholm, Sweden; Roulette, NY, NY; Blue Room, Washington, DC; Open Video Projects, Rome, Italy; Ottober, Baltimore, MD; and Transmissions Festival, Chicago, Illinois among others.

Mykola also runs Open Pop/RSE (Raw Special Effects) publishing press which focuses on limited edition artist books, sound publishing as well as small modular sculptures. Mykola plays in a band called, "Mauve Bridges" also known as Haleta Wellins Winter Mountain. In Fall 2022, Haleta will tour the east coast with Oswald Berthold, 1/2 of the experimental electronic group Farmers Manual. In early 2023, Haleta will be releasing a new record of electronic music on the Santa Cruz-based label, NADA. Currently, he is preparing a pattern research and design book for a highly respected publisher (TBA). This publication will focus on more than 20 years of his personal pattern output, work, play and research. Mykola Haleta is an assistant professor of graphic design and sound at The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

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 September 3rd, 5pm-8pm

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

Headstone Gallery
28 Hurley Ave.
Kingston, NY 12401