

# HEADSTONE

*Who Cooks For You*

Susan Metrican and Joanna Powell

October 7 - October 29, 2023

For Immediate Release:

Headstone is delighted to announce the two-person exhibition, *Who Cooks For You*, showcasing new works by Susan Metrican and Joanna Powell. Metrican presents paintings that push boundaries of perception from the foreground, beyond the painting itself. Powell, known for her fearlessness and painterly style on ceramics, mounts a collection of two cats, a dog, and vases with florally rich motifs. *Who Cooks For You* welcomes the boundless sea of misunderstandings and the human desire for acceptance. When one begins to look, listen, or feel, it might be best to acknowledge the experience and try not to define it.

Joanna Powell's new body of work intentionally exposes the slicing and handling of clay in its most raw state. Her visual weight mimics the body's response to life's cycle- exuberant and exhaustive. Born and raised in Dallas, Texas, Powell proudly inserts glimpses of her southern experience as a woman, attaching a crudely painted red fingernail onto a flower vase; it is an accent of pride and preparedness. Her work invites a come-as-you-are affect- no expectations. Rooted in love, Powell's sculpture poses a non-intrusive nesslering that makes you show your teeth.

Painted, cut, folded, and sewn, Susan Metrican's new works *with* canvas deliver an intimate, experiential awareness. Memory is tricky; one remembers distinct details which are relative to the individual. However, paint, usually found in the two-dimensional realm, isn't enough for Metrican. Her insistent pulling of the image- soon to be object- at hand creates a more present, tactile observation. She invokes a cerebral jostling, moving from what one remembers about a blooming iris and a picture. Moreover, she is interested in the lineage of image (historical and familial), each feeling like a well-worn heirloom.

A call swiped from the beak of owl with an uncanny phonetic translation, *Who Cooks For You*, fictitiously (and perhaps not) communicates a riddle of what one might want to hear. What do humans sound like to the non-human life forms? Language guides our interactions with courageous intention, yet it is our own personal histories that may unintentionally distort the exchange. Metrican and Powell find comfort in this, making communications/songs of their own, acknowledging its devastating potential and simultaneously fighting for its survival.

Susan Metrican is an artist living and working in Fairfield, IA via Boston, NYC, Toronto, and Bangkok. Metrican received an MFA from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, her BFA from the Kansas City Art Institute, and attended Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in 2014. Metrican's work has been included in solo and group exhibitions nationally; Rivalry Projects (NY), Tracey Morgan Gallery (NC), Maharishi University (IA), SPRING/BREAK Art Show 2017 (NY), Able Baker Contemporary (ME), GRIN Contemporary (RI), Proof Gallery (MA), Boston Center for the Arts (MA), Field Projects (NY), Knockdown Center (NY), and Gallery Protocol (FL). Metrican has an artist edition with Drawer NYC (NY), and has been featured in Cream City Review and ART MAZE Mag. She is one of four founding members of kijidome, an experimental project space and collaborative in Boston, MA (2013-2017). She was the Curator at the Kniznick Gallery at Brandeis University (Waltham, MA) from 2014-2022.

Joanna Powell (b.1981,Dallas,TX) received a BFA in ceramics from the University of North Texas(2008) and received an MFA in ceramics from the University of Colorado at Boulder (2012). Powell has exhibited her work throughout the United States including The Archie Bray Foundation, The Clay Studio Philadelphia and Greenwich House Pottery in New York City. From 2013-2015 she was a long term-resident at The Archie Bray Foundation. In 2015, she was named an National Council on the Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) Emerging Artist. Currently, she has a full time studio practice in Helena, MT, working toward future museum shows and exhibitions.

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, October 7th, 5pm-8pm

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

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