

Susan Eley

Fine Art

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 11, 2024

Curio
New Monotypes and Watercolors by Eunju Kang
&
Katherine Curci & Heather Boose Weiss

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Susan Eley Fine Art, NYC
190 Orchard Street, New York, NY, 10002

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May 30 — July 13, 2024
Opening Reception: Thursday, May 30, 6-8PM

Susan Eley Fine Art is pleased to present recent monotypes and watercolors by Eunju Kang in *Curio* in the Upstairs Gallery and an exhibition of landscape drawings and photography by Katherine Curci and Heather Boose Weiss in the Downstairs Gallery. These two exhibitions will be on view May 30th - July 13th at the Lower East Side Gallery, with an opening reception Thursday, May 30th from 6-8pm.

Eunju Kang's watercolors and monotypes take on a diaristic quality as they document the objects and places that the artist encounters in both her travels and everyday life. Bright and lively they chronicle the life cycles of both the living and inanimate elements of Kang's collection. In the two-person exhibition Heather Boose Weiss and Katherine Curci explore striking landscapes in dramatic contrast. Boose Weiss' black and white photographs capture awe-inspiring vistas in great detail. Curci delineates nature with charcoal, impressing sublime scenes into her paper.

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Eunju Kang's monotype and watercolor compositions are spare and lively as the artist balances bold color and delicate forms within an abundant white space. Ever observant, the artist takes inspiration from her surroundings, always on the lookout for unique and curious items she finds and picks up throughout her day. Whether flowers, leaves, nuts, seeds, seashells or fruits, the artist finds beauty in the mundane. Her gathering process is a way of both celebrating these simple objects and tracing the rhythm of her days. Kang chronicles time as she works from observation, often painting the same object repeatedly as it ripens, withers, dries and dies. She is interested in the whole lifespan of her precious momentos finding beauty in each stage of a lifecycle.

Several of the monotypes in *Curio* were completed during Kang's February residency at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, MA (FAWC). In these works shells and abstract forms cascade down the page. In spite of being in New England in February, Kang still ventured outdoors to explore and collect throughout her day, gathering seashells from wintery beaches. Her work undulates between abstract and representational, minimalist and detailed. Items are carefully placed on the page, as words on a page or notes on a score. At times touching or overlapping and other times left surrounded by white space, each item serves a role in the creation of Kang's nature-based narrative. The works are animated and bright, giving attention to the lives and details of each natural form. Joyful and raw, each watercolor approaches the burden of time with grace and humility and feels perpetually fresh.



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Both **Heather Boose Weiss** and **Katherine Curci** explore landscape in grayscale, though through vastly different lenses. The two artists choose a black and white palette with stark contrast to create dramatic, moody scenes. The chosen media and process sets the two respective artists apart. Boose Weiss' photographs are mysterious and sublime; she knows just the right moment and angle to capture her desired effect. Curci's photorealistic drawings in charcoal, created over many hours of painstaking work, are rendered with great technical prowess. Boose Weiss is a photographer who utilizes a single exposure when shooting to create crisp, impactful images. Her compositions are sourced from nature—from the ghostly *Navajo Sand* to the ethereal light spots and rolling waves in *Light on Water*. The artist disorients and abstracts the natural world by playing with traditional foreground and background conventions. The resulting photographs are awe inspiring, drawing the viewer into her world through her poetic lens.

Curci's reverent landscapes take form from the variance in dark velvety blacks and bright striking highlights as the artist delineates form and space with soft blends and strong marks. Some are wondrous and expansive as in *Winter Night in Canmore*, where the artist captures subtle variations in the night sky against the dark looming trees in the foreground. Others are delicate as in *Irrepressible 20* where subtle variations build upon each other to form land, water and flora. Curci impresses emotional weight into each scene connecting the cycles of nature to the human experience.

Press Release Text by Shannon O'Deens, Liz Lorenz and Susan Eley



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Eunju Kang

Artist Biography:

Eunju Kang was born in 1962 and raised in Daegu, Korea. She moved to California at 14 years old with her mother and two sisters in the 1970s. Kang was always an avid doodler, often in her textbooks, which became a helpful communication tool as she adjusted to her new life. Since the early 1990s, Kang has lived and worked in NYC, painting, printmaking and turning her doodles into a successful business with her sisters.

Kang earned fine art degrees at UC Santa Barbara and Pasadena Art Center College of Design where she graduated with distinction. She has been awarded two residencies at The Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown (FAWC), the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and the Vermont Studio Center. She has taught at the L.A. County High School for the Arts, the ArtCenter College of Design and the School of Visual Art in NYC. Kang's work has been shown across the U.S. including exhibitions at 490 Atlantic Gallery, (Brooklyn, NY); LA Artcore Gallery (Los Angeles, CA) and Wyoming University Museum (Laramie, WY). Her fine art is in private collections around the world. Her illustration work has been used in packaging and ad campaigns by Godiva Chocolate, Aveda, Simon & Schuster and many others. Kang is represented by Susan Eley Fine Art (New York, NY and Hudson, NY).

Kang's lifelong passion for monoprinting began in Santa Barbara. She has continued to explore the medium, often incorporating collage and detailed sketches or painting.

Artist Statement:

My love for watercolor painting and monoprinting does not end. Everyday I start with a bit of nature, a flower left from a party, a small branch I picked up from the community garden near my apartment. It has always been my routine to record moments of my days so that I won't forget. Now, daily I paint flowers, plants and fruits in watercolor.

Each day is a surprise—something spontaneous, both intended and unintended. On my daily bike ride, I find beauty in nature and in everyday life, often in the most mundane places. I stop and take in what I see: colors, shapes, flowers and sky. All of these images come with me to the studio. I add, subtract, blur, clear and then the surprise comes—a simple gesture both deliberate and non deliberate. This unexpected outcome drives me every day. I am at peace in these moments where I paint what I see and the gathered items converse to make their own stories.

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Heather Boose Weiss

Artist Biography

Riding on a wavelength off of the Light and Space Movement of 1960s California—Heather Boose Weiss approaches a continuity of form, presence, space, light and movement through still photography. Depicting both natural and supernatural moments in time and space, her works often break the formal foreground/background relationship. She invites the audience to float in space, to follow the water's path or witness a beam of light. The integrative soulful renderings breathe fresh life into the classic medium of black and white film photography captured through a Hasselblad camera.

Boose Weiss builds collective meditations through energetic interactions with nature. Her works offer subtle and often mystical perceptions of our environment. Her earlier self-portrait works eventually broke free of their own narrative and expanded into a full dialogue with elemental being, nature itself, movement and light. They reveal and also command that we not only see but maintain an intimacy with nature, guarding the spirit that dwells in the natural heritage we are all a part of on earth.

Heather Boose Weiss studied photography at Cornell University and received a BFA in photography from the School of Visual Arts in 2005. She launched and taught a photography program at a Harlem Charter Day School in 2004. Boose Weiss has exhibited with Susan Eley Fine Art in multiple exhibitions since 2007. She currently lives and works in Washington, USA.

Artist Statement

I have selected images for this exhibition that represent the last ten years of growing my visual language. All the imagery was made in camera with a Hasselblad and ISO400 film. There has been no post production digital manipulation.



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Fine Art

Katherine Curci

Artist Biography

Katherine Curci is an award-winning contemporary artist from Toronto, Canada who specializes in photo-realistic charcoal drawings. She completed her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Drawing and Painting at the Ontario College of Art and Design University in 2014 and received a Certificate of Advanced Visual Studies at OCADU's Self-Directed Studio Program in Florence, Italy. She furthered her education in 2017 when she attended CMU in Toronto for SPFX Makeup Art and Design in TV & Film. Due to COVID, her career in prosthetics and make-up was short-lived but ultimately gave her the opportunity to revisit her artistic practice. What began as a hobby to pass time during lockdown, has now become a professional endeavor. Since becoming a full-time artist in 2021, she has exhibited her work in numerous galleries both locally and internationally. Curci is represented by Olga Korper Gallery in Toronto, Canada.

Artist Statement:

Through the study of land, sea and sky, I create photo-realistic charcoal drawings that explore the contrast between light and shadow, from subtle to intense. Using a combination of deep velvety blacks and shimmering highlights, I represent the contrast of life itself. These seemingly opposing elements coexist in my work to create moments of stillness, which become emotional representations of the constant ebb and flow of nature mirroring our human experience. During the COVID pandemic, the world was heavily impacted by fear and uncertainty and this inspired me to create drawings that would offer viewers a moment of calm and reflection to connect to nature and also to escape from the overwhelmingness of our day to day lives. My biggest inspiration comes from nature as I rely on it not only for references, but also as a much needed healing tool.