



MEDIA CONTACT:

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BAU Gallery

506 Main Street Beacon, New York

Gallery Hours: Saturday and Sunday

12pm - 6 pm or by appointment

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Beacon, New York – December 20, 2023

## February 2024 Exhibitions - Issue #227

### **BAU Gallery Presents**

**GALLERY 1** BAU Open First Prize Exhibition: *Elemental Conversations: the Wood Fired Ceramics of Meg Beaudoin*

**GALLERY 2** BAU Open Awardees Loren Eiferman and Midori Furutate: *Alchemy / Paper and Sticks*

**BEACON ROOM** Mary McFerran. *Climate Line*

**Opening Reception** Second Saturday, February 10th, OPEN from 12-6 pm, with an artist's reception from 6-8 pm. **Artist talk** by Meg Bodoïn on March 3rd at 3pm. Exhibit ends Sunday, March 3rd, at 506 Main Street, Beacon, NY. Saturdays and Sundays 12-6 pm or by appointment.

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### **Gallery 1: BAU Open First Prize Exhibition. *Elemental Conversations: the Wood Fired Ceramics of Meg Beaudoin***

Meg Beaudoin's work is a conversation—between the hand and the material, the form and the fire, and the work and the viewer/user. She wood fires her work so that there is never a point in the process where the dialogue stops. Being in a conversation from start to finish also means never being in complete control. The work is always more than her and she values that. Her work is not an act of self expression as much as an attempt at world expression. It is a way of connecting to the natural world, of making the natural world real in the moment, both in relation to herself, and for the viewer/user in relation to themselves.

An additional conversation that this work presents is a conversation between dualities which she



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regards as merely apparent—between sculpture and function, art and craft, inside and outside, and ultimately mind and body. The ceramic vessel creates an inside by the very act of creating an outside and the one is not possible without the other. All of the work is both sculptural and functional at the same time. The conversation between these two modalities is the result of the unique space that ceramics occupies, a space where the duality of art and craft can be overcome.

Her work is inspired by the natural world and aims to reflect the color, depth and perfect imperfection of natural forms. As with natural forms, imperfection is not a shortcoming, but a source of beauty—the irregularity of the bark of the tree or of its trunk as it adapts in its growth around boulders, the light and shadows within the wrinkles of the face and hands or the folds of flesh in the torso. It is such beauty that her work strives to make manifest.

#### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Meg Beaudoin is a full time ceramic artist who lives and works in the woods of the Mid-Hudson Valley, NY. She has been wood firing for over 14 years and fires all of her work in anagama kilns for 3 to 7 days, most often without any applied glaze. She chooses to fire in this way so that the surfaces are the result of multiple layers of ash laid down and melted at high temperatures over long periods of time. As a result of this lengthy labor the surfaces of the work have a depth that cannot be otherwise achieved.

Meg Beaudoin's work has been exhibited extensively across the United States and awarded at numerous juried shows. Her work has been published in *Ceramics Monthly* and was featured as the cover image in April 2020. Most recently her work was exhibited at Cavin Morris Gallery in New York City for Wood Fired Alchemy: Meg Beaudoin and Mike Weber.

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**Gallery 2: BAU Open Awardees Exhibition. Loren Eiferman and Midori Furutate: *Alchemy / Paper and Sticks***

Loren Eiferman



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At one point or another, we have all picked up a stick from the ground—touched the wood, peeled the bark off with our fingernails. Loren Eiferman's work taps into this same primal desire of touching nature and being close to it. Eiferman's sculptures appear as if they were born from nature itself; however, they are actually crafted from hundreds of small pieces of wood that have been meticulously joined together. The sculptural work that Eiferman is exhibiting in *Alchemy / Paper and Sticks* can be seen as a mini-retrospective of sorts, drawing from many decades of the artist's work and inspired by such diverse influences, including the illustrations found in the mysterious 15<sup>th</sup> century Voynich Manuscript; the natural patterns she observes on walks in the countryside; Quantum Physics and the celestial images from the Hubble Telescope. Eiferman calls her work the ultimate recycling where she takes the "detritus" of nature and turns it into art. Whether working in wood or metal, Eiferman approach is to encourage viewers to contemplate our profound interconnectedness between humans and the environment we all share.

#### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Eiferman was born in Brooklyn, NY and currently lives and works in the Hudson Valley. She received her BFA from SUNY Purchase. Her work has been exhibited extensively at museums and galleries throughout the New York Tri-State and is included in many private and corporate collections both here in the US and globally. This past summer she had a solo exhibit at The Ivy Brown Gallery in NYC. Inspired by a public works commission from the NYC Metropolitan Transportation Authority in which Eiferman translated her wood designs into a series of steel railings at the Pelham, NY Train Station, she has begun casting her wood sculptures into bronze.

#### Midori Furutate

The celebration of all life. The world of living becomes the world of everlasting, where souls are free to fly through. All entities that touch this earth have or have had a beautiful body which cradles the spirit and soul. We cherish precious moments on this planet. Leaving the earth, there are silhouettes of existence, an imprint of physicality.

#### ABOUT THE ARTIST

A self-taught artist with a music background, Midori Furutate spends time in the creation with material, mainly paper without harming any life until a moment that imagination and the materials



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become one with nature's help. Being born and growing up in Tokyo, Japan, she has also been influenced with the Japanese aesthetic, a unique sense of space; empty space of paintings, space between sounds or movement—the use of poetic space.

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### **Beacon Room: Mary McFerran: *Climate Line***

*Climate Line* combines a video projection and paper doll-like drawings to convey concern about the threat of the earth's warming due to the overuse of fossil fuels.

In this installation, McFerran continues her exploration of climate change threats through fashion by combining drawings and photos of her Weather Wear fiber collection with projected images of storms. The drawings are like paper dolls and, as in her original artwork, she employs clothing to signify the human connection to the perils of our climate crisis.

#### **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Mary McFerran is an artist who lives and works in the Hudson Valley of New York. Her practice focuses on fiber and ideas about memory, nature and social/political concerns. She prefers sewing as a method of construction, both for its aesthetic appeal and its link to women's history of making.

In earlier years, McFerran was a video artist and participated in the art scene of Manhattan's Lower East Side. She began working with textiles after taking an embroidery class in London, UK and discovered thread as another method of drawing.

McFerran has degrees in Fashion, Art Education, Printmaking, Expanded Arts, and Educational Technology. She shows her work in NYC, the Hudson Valley and Delaware County, NY. She is currently a member of BAU Gallery in Beacon, NY.

#### **BAU Mission Statement**

BAU is a fine art gallery and project space. BAU is a platform for members/artists to experiment, grow, exhibit and market their work, encourage collaborative curatorial projects, host invitationals, and build a vital link between the activities at BAU and the community. This is the 227th consecutive exhibition at BAU Gallery.



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## Gallery 1



Meg Beaudoin, *Encrusted Asteroid Jar*. Stoneware, sea shells, natural ash glaze, no applied glaze, anagama wood fired on side on shells for 4 days. 16" x 14" x 13" 2023



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## Gallery 2



Loren Eiferman, *18v/New Growth*. 142 pieces of wood paper clay, linseed oil, pastel, copper metal coating with green patina. 38 x 16 x 8 inches. 2021





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Midori Furutate, *untitled / silhouette of souls*. Paper, ink, and watercolor on paper on wood. 4 x 7 x 7 inches. 2020



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## Beacon Room



Mary McFerran, *Hurricane Dress*. Photo and pencil, 24" x 22" 2023

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