

RYAN LEE

RYAN LEE GALLERY LLC
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Katy Stone

Light Currents

March 12 – May 16, 2020

Reception: Thursday, March 12, 6:00 - 8:00PM

RYAN LEE is pleased to announce *Light Currents*, an exhibition of new work by Katy Stone. Stone is known for her dynamic multi-layered installations that range in scale from the small and intimate to monumental public commissions. Continuing to work with duralar, aluminum, and dichroic plastic, Stone's latest body of work pushes the limits of her industrial materials and probes the ethereality of her subject matter.

Stone draws on a variety of conceptual source material: early twentieth-century abstraction, the Light and Space movement, and Immanence theory. Her materials allow for an exploration of geometric abstraction that is grounded in form, yet is expansive and mutable. In *Sun/Circle 2* (2019) strips of painted duralar rectangles are arranged in multiple layers to create a near-perfect circle. The resulting image is as much a combination of its geometric elements as the light it reflects and the shadows it casts. It is at once translucent and solid, evoking celestial energy through terrestrial forms. Light, time, cosmic forces, and natural phenomena become literal and metaphorical guides for Stone's artistic meditations.

Stone intentionally selects materials that are physically light and thin. The work in *Light Currents*, she explains, "explores both the idea of surface and field, an attitude of expansiveness that is rhizomatic, planar, infinite." Clouds have become a recurring subject of interrogation for Stone for their embodiment of phenomena that is both unique in a moment, and ceaselessly cyclical. Clouds provided the point of reference for a series of painted metal works, cut into gestural arrangements that Stone refers to as *Archipelagos* (2018). In *Book of Hours* (2020), a series of vertical bands of painted duralar span a gallery wall, offering a vision of eight simultaneous slices of sunset, or perhaps the effects of time passing, frozen for a fleeting moment in a fragment of sky. In *Light Currents*, Stone's works are equally engaged in the exploration of atmospheric phenomena and the materials she uses to recreate them.

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Katy Stone (b. 1969 Rockford, IL) is a sculptor and artist best known for her largescale public commissions. Working primarily in aluminum, Dura-Lar and plexiglass, Stone creates hybrids of sculpture and painting that combine the visual language of organic forms with industrial materials. Her work balances this monumentality and durability with a sense of motion and fragility. Each layered, cascading work consists of scores of drawn and hand-painted gestures that seem frozen in a moment of falling, fluttering, waving, crashing or exhaling. Over her career, she has developed an intricate vocabulary of line, shape, form and mark-making to blur the boundaries between traditional techniques of drawing, painting and sculpture.

Stone received her MFA from the University of Washington. She has exhibited at Boise Art Museum; Boston University Art Gallery; Jacksonville Museum of Contemporary Art; McNay Museum of Art, San Antonio; Sun Valley Center, Ketchum; Missoula Art Museum; University of Richmond; and Watcom Museum of Art, Bellingham. Her work is held in the public collections of Boise Art Museum, City of Seattle, Iowa State University, McNay Museum of Art, Missoula Art Museum, and University of Michigan. Stone has completed major commissions at the Jackson Federal Courthouse, Jackson; The Cosmopolitan, Las Vegas; Ross School of Business, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; Swedish Medical Center, Seattle; and Woodmont Library, Des Moines among others. Stone lives and works in Seattle, Washington.