

Laura Kaufman: *Tension Bridge*

August 30–October 18, 2020

River Valley Arts Collective is pleased to announce an exhibition of new work by Beacon-based artist Laura Kaufman, including sculptures that incorporate diverse media such as linen, willow sticks, ramie, wool, paper, and steel. The exhibition is organized in collaboration with the Al Held Foundation in Boiceville, NY, and will take place in the former drawing studio of Al Held. The exhibition is organized in collaboration with the Al Held Foundation in Boiceville, NY, and will take place in the former drawing studio of Al Held.



Kaufman is interested in systems of language–linguistic, scientific, artistic. Her titles– *Tension Bridge*, *The Upsett*, *‘twill*–reference the technical terminology of weaving, however, also suggest a double entredre that reflects the social and political unrest of our current time.

In her sculpture, works often fuse and transform transdisciplinary referents into unexpected material form, such as presenting a comma as a functional wood stool; “weaving” Scotch plaid on paper through a transfer print process; or, calculating the possible weight of Earth as numerical bronze necklaces. She approaches pattern, form, and material with an open mind and interest in the commonalities that bind rather than the distinctions that separate.

A shift in Kaufman’s recent work occurred after an encounter with an Adirondack basket maker. The relationship between baskets and weaving, together with baskets’ connection to local plants and the environment, was an inspiration for the new body of sculpture in *Tension Bridge*. Working with Hudson Valley-based basket makers, Kaufman learned the skills of basket making in order to weave new shapes and structures out of willow sticks, colored paper, and foraged vines. Combined with steel armatures and found wood supports, woven shapes are transformed into works that create pattern and drawing in space.

Hudson Valley-based artist Laura Kaufman’s recent exhibitions include Grace Farms, New Canaan, CT; Marquee Projects, Bellport, NY; The Dorsky Museum of Art, New Paltz, NY; University Art Museum, University of Albany; Matteawan Gallery, Beacon, NY; Albany

RIVER VALLEY ARTS COLLECTIVE

International Airport Gallery, Albany, NY; Wassaic Project, Wassaic, NY; and the AIM Biennial, Bronx Museum of Art, Bronx, NY. Kaufman is an educator at Dia Beacon, Beacon, NY and Grace Farms Foundation, New Canaan, CT. She received a BA in Studio Art from Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY, and an MFA in sculpture from the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI.

River Valley Arts Collective was founded by Alyson Baker in January of 2019 and is currently presenting itinerant programming in the Hudson Valley while working to secure and equip a permanent location. As goals are fully realized in the coming years, it will provide artists with the resources to create and present their work and host programs that connect and foster the creative community of our region. Central to River Valley Arts Collective will be an exhibition venue alongside three expansive communal studio spaces outfitted with tools and equipment for work in fiber, wood and clay, available to artists of the Hudson Valley and artists who are participating in area residencies.

The Al Held Foundation is charged with the stewardship of Al Held's art and creative legacy. The Foundation's mission is to foster the appreciation and advancement of the principles of modern art and the public's understanding of Held's contribution to art of the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. In the last decade the Foundation has facilitated the organization of exhibitions, lent works of art, promoted scholarly research, and conducted educational programs in the United States and abroad. The Foundation is represented by White Cube.

River Valley Arts Collective is grateful for generous support from: Mara Held, Daniel Belasco and The Al Held Foundation, Athena Foundation, Mark Dion, Kristen Dodge, John B. Koegel, Esq., The New York Foundation for the Arts, The O'Grady Foundation, Clay Rockefeller, Richard Salomon Family Foundation, and The Lenore G. Tawney Foundation.

Laura Kaufman *Tension Bridge* is curated by Candice Madey. For more information, please contact info@RVACollective.org.

EXHIBITION DATES:

August 30 to October 18, 2020

OPENING EVENT:

Sunday, August 30, 9am to 1pm by appointment only.

RIVER VALLEY ARTS COLLECTIVE

PLAN YOUR VISIT:

This exhibition is on view in Boiceville, NY. Reservations are required and health safety protocols are in place—please contact info@RVACollective.org to plan your visit, make a reservation, and get directions to the site.

IMAGE DETAILS:

Laura Kaufman studio

PHOTO CREDIT: