

MEDIA RELEASE

Array

Martyna Szczęsna

On View — by appointment only: February 17 — March 23, Hours: 2 — 6pm

Opening Reception — Thursday, February 17, 6 — 8pm

NEW YORK, NY (Feb 17th, 2022) — Penumbra Foundation is pleased to present *Array*, a solo exhibition by artist Martyna Szczęsna.

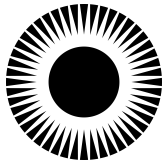
Szczęsna's work examines utopian constructs using both the formal and intangible qualities of photography and site. In *Array*, her ongoing series of life-sized photograms, Szczęsna maps chance urban ecologies created in the interplay between the artificial illumination of L.E.D. streetlights and the projected shadows of trees reorganized according to the logic of the light source's cellular, technological structure.

Produced by preloading dark tubes with tightly rolled and unexposed photographic paper and flashing it directly under the urban canopy in the late hours of the night, the photograms document the multiplication of shadows by the individual lights that comprise a whole L.E.D. street light panel. The tight coil of the paper acts as the exposure control, quickly rolling up after release, the paper is reinserted into the tube for later processing.

The imagery is graphic and fragmented with acidic, vibrant color schemes, heightening the viewer's awareness that they are no longer in familiar territory but rather in an intensely perceptual and psychological space, resplendently alive with the awe and terror of the sublime.

Just as the light patterns deconstruct their shadow hostages, Szczęsna breaks apart her images, reconfiguring them into mural-sized constructions that reflect her memory of the fragmented landscape and identity of the places she recorded.

The opening hours for this exhibition are Monday through Friday, 2 PM — 6 PM. Admission is free. Viewing is by appointment only.

**About the artist:**

Martyna Szczęśna's work investigates the heterotopic as a site of dissonance and resilience. Focusing on the mutability of the image and reiterating it through a variety of media she pairs the photographic with unconventional armature. This precarious method of assembly, its vulnerability, serves to further amplify phenomenological effects of fugitive color and surface. The result: bifurcation or meiosis, depending on who you ask.

Born in Olsztyn, Poland, Szczęśna immigrated to the United States with her family in the early nineties. She is a graduate of the Cooper Union for the Arts and Sciences and holds an MFA in Photography from the University of California, Los Angeles. Her work has been supported by residencies at Penumbra Foundation, Yucca Valley Material Lab, Franconia Sculpture Park, Bullseye Glass, AZ West as well as the AIM program at the Bronx Museum.

Select exhibitions include: If Rittenhouse--, Callicoon Fine Arts, Portrait of a Landscape, Museo Sivori, Buenos Aires; The Third Bronx Biennial, Bronx Museum, NY; and Flat Touch, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY.

About Penumbra Project Gallery

The 300 square-foot Project Space offers emerging and mid-career artists a place to present new work. The exhibitions are developed in conjunction with Penumbra's editorial or educational programming.

About Penumbra Foundation

Penumbra Foundation is a non-profit organization that brings together the Art and Science of Photography through education, research, outreach, public and residency programs. Its goal is to be a comprehensive resource for photographers at any level, artists, students, professionals, historians, researchers, conservators and curators. Penumbra specializes in advancing the use of historic and alternative photographic technologies for contemporary image-making.

Contact: Leandro Villaro | leandro@penumbrafoundation.org
36 East 30th Street · New York, NY 10016 (Between Madison Ave. and Park Ave. South)
(917) 288-0343 | penumbrafoundation.org | [@penumbrafoundation](https://www.instagram.com/penumbrafoundation)