

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

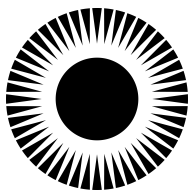
In *Rainbow Bruise*, Klea McKenna Explores Feminine Archetypal Imagery Through Innovative Techniques of Her Own Design.



Rainbow Bruise 23 from the series *Rainbow Bruise*
Unique photographic relief (embossed silver gelatin photogram, fabric dye), 2023, 23 x 19in

NEW YORK, NEW YORK – Penumbra Foundation is pleased to present *Rainbow Bruise*, a solo exhibition by artist Klea McKenna. McKenna’s large photographic reliefs combine the techniques she has innovated over the last decade to create archetypal imagery that suggests the feminine body as a surface that transmits and records our histories. A public reception of the exhibition is scheduled for October 26th, 2023, from 6 to 8 PM. The exhibition will run through January 31st, 2024.

In her most recent work, McKenna combines cameraless photographic techniques she has honed throughout her career in order to craft a unique hybrid approach, and create images with a confounding blend of concrete evidence and speculative fantasy. She continues to use her fundamental technique of casting raking light on embossed photographic paper, now incorporating painting, and intaglio printing into her process. This work moves further from traditional



photography, while still embracing many of its principles, as well as its potent relationship to the real – formed by the medium’s complicated history with evidence and truth.

McKenna depicts semi-abstract, figurative shapes derived from everyday materials like unfolded cardboard packaging, creating an aesthetic that blends archeological artifacts with the die-cut curves of mass production. From the tabs, flaps, and holes of a Kleenex box, she conjures a symbolic vocabulary of feminine elements like breasts, nipples, voluptuous curves, and wombs, then renders them in low-relief, as icons or effigies for our time. As an exhibition, *Rainbow Bruise* points to time, adaptation, and an embodied experience of womanhood across our past, present, and unknown future.

EXHIBITION PREVIEW & BOOK SIGNING

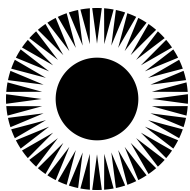
Please join us for a walk-through with Klea McKenna on Thursday, October 26th, from 5 to 6 PM. The artist will also be signing copies of her most recent publication *Witness Mark* (Saint Lucy Books, 2023). Copies of the book will be available for [purchase](#) at Penumbra Foundation.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Klea McKenna (b. 1980, Freestone, CA) is a visual artist who writes and makes films and is known for cameraless photography and her innovative use of light-sensitive materials. She is a 2023 recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship Award for Photography. Her work is held in several public collections, including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA; Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA; Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA; United States Embassy Collection; Mead Art Museum, Amherst, MA; Museum of Fine Arts Boston, MA, and The Victoria & Albert Museum, London. She studied art at UCLA, UCSC, and California College of the Arts. Klea is the daughter of renegade ethnobotanist, Kathleen Harrison and psychedelic philosopher, Terence McKenna. She lives in San Francisco with her partner and their young children. For more information, visit www.kleamckenna.com

ABOUT PENUMBRA FOUNDATION

Penumbra Foundation is an innovative New York City-based nonprofit arts organization committed to promoting a broad understanding of the contemporary photographic medium. Our vision encompasses conceptual, experimental,



and hand-made photographic practices. We support our diverse community of photography-based artists, researchers, and curators through a range of initiatives. Our programs (adult and youth education, artist residencies, exhibitions, and lecture series) are designed to foster diversity and inclusivity, encouraging individuals from all backgrounds to explore boundary-pushing approaches to traditional photography. www.penumbrafoundation.org

KLEA MCKENNA: RAINBOW BRUISE

October 26th, 2023 — January 31st, 2024

OPENING RECEPTION

Thursday, October 26th, from 6 to 8 PM.

Penumbra Foundation

36 E 30th St, New York, NY 10016

For images and more information, please see the press kit.

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