

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: "SUMMER SLEEP" EXHIBIT OPENS AT PDS SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

Princeton, NJ – New exhibit opens September 6, 2023, with planned public reception at Princeton Day School's Anne Reid '72 Gallery on Friday, September 29 from 3:30-5pm, featuring work by Amorelle Jacox and Shauna Steinbach.

September 6 – December 1, 2023

annereid72gallery@pds.org.

Anne Reid '72 Gallery at Princeton Day School presents *Summer Sleep*, an exhibition by **Amorelle Jacox** and **Shauna Steinbach**. Jacox and Steinbach met in the Fall of 2019 during their first semester at Hunter College where they were both pursuing their Master of Fine Arts degrees. Working in distinctly different mediums, the two artists were immediately drawn to each other - Steinbach feeling they "instinctively spoke the same language" recalling a painting by Jacox that felt "metaphysical and gave (them) a sense of knowing through feeling rather than words." Jacox recalls being "drawn to the simplicity of the forms in (Steinbach's) work. She describes their sculpture as "elegant and bodily, funny and sexy and grungy and sleek all in one - paired down to their sweetest spot, buzzing on the edge of (object) familiarity and material and phenomenon and body." Both artists create from a place of curiosity and question asking. They share an interest in the ambiguous nature of time, transitional cycles of knowing and unknowing, a sense of calm within precarity and in Jacox's words, "the often flimsy delineation of body and object and space."



Shauna Steinbach, *Untitled*, mixed media installation, 2022

The show's title *Summer Sleep* was suggested by the artists in the creation of this exhibition. The phrase comes from the term *estivation*, which is a period of hibernation that some animals, often reptiles and amphibians, go into when conditions are particularly hot and dry. The artists were drawn to the phrase and its indication towards a primal reaction to heat. The title suggests a conservation of energy, a period of transition and the inevitability of seasons coming and going. In Jacox's words, "I think of sleep's ability to distort time and hibernation as a sort of bowing to time and its ability to pass quickly or thickly or not at all." Steinbach adds that "though change is constant and inevitable, we do have some control over how we receive and move through it." For both artists time and transition are mediums as much as paint, plaster or found objects. Jacox builds thin layers of color onto her surfaces, waiting lengthy periods of time for each layer to dry before adding another thus allowing the spaces in her paintings to be formed through the waiting. Steinbach often finds objects that other people have discarded on the streets of New York. They are interested in the histories that these objects hold from their functional lives with previous owners and how they can shift into another state through alterations like bending, cutting, disassembling, molding and recasting etc. Both artists constantly step outside of their comfort zones through play with color - Jacox often starting a base layer with an unfamiliar color and then following her intuition as the surface builds, and Steinbach changing the color of a found object to further displace it from functionality even if the initial color is exciting or beautiful. Negative space, portals and holes play big roles in the work, offering opportunities for slippage between body, object and space and suggesting expansiveness beyond the actual canvas or sculpture that can feel both seductive and frightening. For both Steinbach and Jacox art-making offers an opportunity to problem-solve and to experiment. In their parallel dedication to the studio both makers are able to get lost in worlds of their own and to find inspiration everywhere.



Amorelle Jacox, *The diver (death of the acrobat, or day grave)*, oil on canvas, 72 by 60 inches, 2022

Amorelle Jacox is a visual artist living and working in New York City. She received her BA in Fine Arts from Mount Vernon Nazarene University in Ohio and her MFA from Hunter College in NYC. Jacox has shown her work in Ohio, New York, Los Angeles, Texas, Georgia, and Switzerland. Her works and writing have been published in Art Maze and Yale School of Divinity's LETTERS journal.

Shauna Steinbach is a New York-based artist working primarily in sculpture and installation. They received a BFA from Iowa State University and an MFA from Hunter College. Steinbach studied printmaking at Atelier Contrepoint (Paris) and participated in Limited Domain Residency (Los Angeles). Their work has been exhibited in the United States, Canada, and Europe, including Hauser & Wirth, New York (2021). Steinbach's work is included in the permanent collection of the Hammer Museum (Los Angeles).