

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: “EXQUISITE TRACES” EXHIBIT OPENS AT PDS SEPTEMBER 3, 2024
Princeton, NJ – New exhibit opens September 3, 2024, with planned public reception at Princeton Day School’s Anne Reid ’72 Gallery on Thursday, September 12 from 3-5pm, featuring work by Elizabeth Insogna.

September 3 – December 3, 2024

To schedule a private viewing please email annereid72gallery@pds.org.



Elizabeth Insogna, *πῦρ fire*, 2022, 25 x 22 x 22 ceramic, glaze, overlay.

Anne Reid ’72 Gallery at Princeton Day School presents *Exquisite Traces*, an exhibition of ceramic sculpture by **Elizabeth Insogna**, a Brooklyn-based artist and educator. Insogna’s works are created through embodied research into ritual and magic from the ancient Greco-Roman world and the reconsideration of chthonic spaces on the divine feminine in writing and iconography. Her sculptures glisten and are embedded with crystals. They are “composed of sensuous curves and spirals, the forms appear as if liquid frozen in motion, with shimmering

surfaces that reveal a wide array of symbols and inscriptions”.¹ These inscriptions tend to employ the ancient Greek language that Insogna has studied for the past three years, slowly translating passages such as those within the Greek Magical Papyri, and The Chaldean Oracles.

Insogna describes her work as follows: The sculptures and tablets illuminate elusive aspects of the goddess Hekate described in ancient texts as the movement of lightning as a lighting up of energy, a generating force in the cosmos containing both the “intelligibles” and the bodily senses. This invokes the value of intelligence as one which includes body, emotion, intuition and mind. The sculptures signal elements of fire, water and time as simultaneously flowing and frozen as in, *Fluid-Fire, Future Spirits*, 2024. Insogna gives special consideration to the surfaces of her sculptures, making her own glazes from scratch which are constructed from elements found within the earth that serve both the physical purpose in the vitrification of ceramic and as a metaphor in the excavation of chthonic forces to the light through alchemy. Forms are carved with codes that link up to traces of Her found in the remains of statues, tombs and in temples of magic in Pompeii; as well as dance and song within the memory those walls contain, layered with prayer in motion and initiation into occult consciousness. The rich symbolism of flowering pomegranates like the blossom within a flame of fire, as endless seeds to the powers of the underworld sprouting up towards the redistribution of time and space. The divine feminine points to a mysterious center, a flame, a void, and an unnamable substance.

Elizabeth Insogna creates ceramic sculptures, drawings and ritual performances within the realm of the divine feminine through queer and feminist space as well as occult practices. She has a BFA in sculpture from SUNY New Paltz and an MFA from Brooklyn College. Past solo exhibitions include *Tracing the Spirit* at RAR gallery in Berlin and *Psyche's Reason* in NYC. Two and three person exhibitions include, *Pale Hekate's Team* at Tappeto Volante, *Doesn't Hold Water* at Underdonk and *Hekate's Grove* at FiveMyles. She has participated in group exhibitions at Bill Arning Exhibitions, Tappeto Volante, The Abrons Art Center, The Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, and in multiple curatorial projects by The Sphinx Northeast. Her ritual performances and activations include *A ritual of recognition, Initiatory Rites*, 2024, a dual performance with Kay Turner; (Tappeto Volante) *The Double Sun*, 2024 (Bill Arning Exhibitions) *Scrying Ritual*, 2017 (Abrons Art Center), *Healing Persephone's Wounds with Kay Turner* (National Arts Club, 2021), and *The Croning*, Invited by Liz Collins, Stoneleaf Retreat for Upstate Art Weekend, 2022. Her work has been featured in Artsy, Art Spiel, Magic Praxis, Huffington Post, Abraxas Journal, Hyperallergic, Two Coats of Paint and The Brooklyn Rail.

¹ Soboleva, Ksenia M., *Hekate's Grove: Elizabeth Insogna, Karen Heagle, Kay Turner*, Brooklyn Rail, 2022