

**Material Witness**

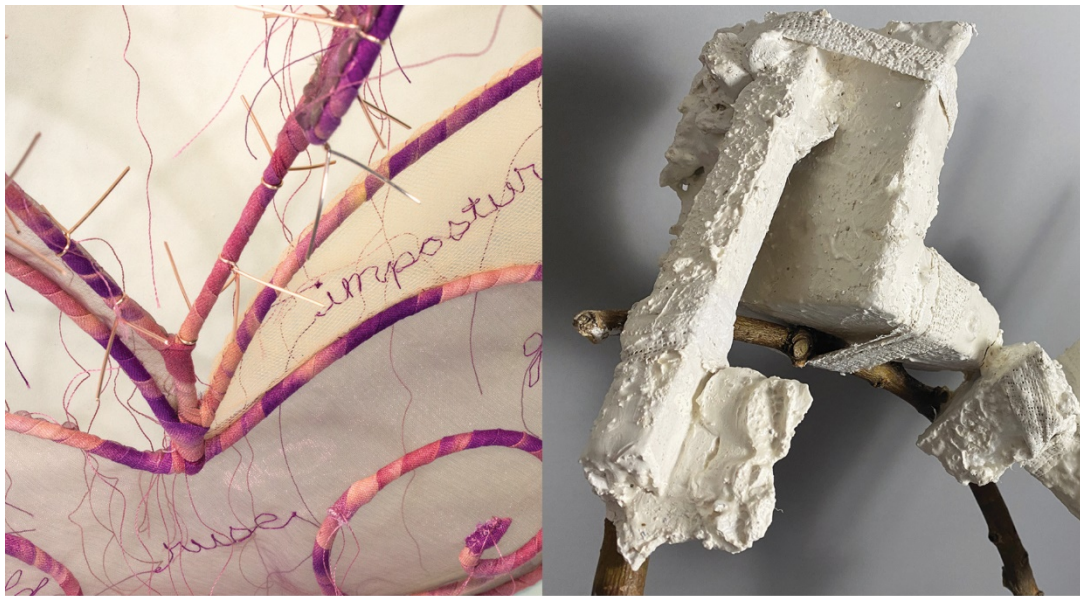
**Virginia Mahoney + Sylvia Vander Sluis**

June 2–27, 2021

Reception TBD, in accordance with COVID guidelines

Virtual Artist Talk: June 12, 2021, 4PM

FOR PRESS-READY IMAGES CONTACT: Marie Craig at [director@fsfaboston.com](mailto:director@fsfaboston.com), (774) 286-1800



FS MATERIAL WITNESS  
Virginia Mahoney + Sylvia Vander Sluis

**BOSTON, MA** – Beginning June 2nd, Fountain Street Gallery will exhibit “Material Witness,” featuring the work of Virginia Mahoney and Sylvia Vander Sluis. These sculptors process and evoke human experience with their material choices and improvised construction techniques. Forms reference the body through the senses, unexpected media, and inventive structures. Both artists approach their materials intuitively, discovering a personal vocabulary of form. Mahoney combines reclaimed materials and text in objects that resonate with sensory suggestion and reveal an exploratory manner. Vander Sluis unites contradictory materials in tenuous forms that reflect the human condition.

**Virginia Mahoney’s** garment-related forms reflect upon sensation, reaction, and thought in her mixed media sculpture. Her objects play with language ambiguity, using text as a device to captivate, clarify or confound. Mahoney’s complex assembly of commonplace methods of making invokes both familiarity and wonder. Physical material qualities often inspire her unorthodox approach, which bypasses convention and embraces possibility. The resulting works, intricately rendered, tell stories both personal and communal.

Mahoney earned an MFA in Ceramics at Cranbrook Academy of Art (MI) and a BA in Art at the University of Florida. After college, she was awarded a two-year Core Fellowship at Penland School of Craft (NC). She has shown in juried and invitational exhibits both regionally and nationally, and has been published in *Artscope Magazine* and *Hyperallergic*, *Boston Voyager* and *WBURArtery* online magazines. Her work is in the collection of the Lancaster Art Museum (PA). Mahoney is a Core Member of Fountain Street Gallery, and works from her home studio in Brockton, MA.

**Sylvia Vander Sluis's** visceral forms hold opposing feelings without giving up either. Incongruous materials, both industrial and domestic, are combined in raw, emotional constructions. Inspired by the folds of rosin paper, the transparency of cheesecloth, and the grit of gravel, Vander Sluis creates metaphors for the dualities of life. In one sculpture, plaster gauze holds Styrofoam precariously on structures of willow branches. Her work honors both the fragility and strength of the human spirit.

Vander Sluis earned an MFA from Western Michigan University and BFA cum laude from Syracuse University. In 2020, she completed an Artist Residency at Vermont Studio Center. She has been published in *Surface Design Journal*, *Current Threads* online and *WBURArtery* online magazine. Her work has been shown in numerous juried exhibitions in the Northeast. Vander Sluis is a Core Member of Fountain Street Gallery, an Associate Member of Boston Sculptors Gallery, and works from her studio in Lancaster, MA.

### Image Information

Left: Mahoney, *Window Dressing* (detail)

Right: Vander Sluis, *Relationship* (detail)

### About Fountain Street

Fountain Street is a contemporary gallery in the SoWa Art + Design District of Boston. We exhibit a wide array of media from over 30 emerging and mid-career artists in both our main and annex galleries. Founded in 2011, our passion has always been about connecting art seekers and makers through thoughtfully curated exhibitions, juried shows, collaborative projects and installations. Our deep commitment to local artists and frequent rotation of new exhibits offers visitors a fresh and dynamic art experience.

### Contact

Marie Craig, Director, (774) 286-1800

Fountain Street Gallery, 460C Harrison Ave. #2, Boston, MA 02118

[marie@fsfaboston.com](mailto:marie@fsfaboston.com) [www.fsfaboston.com](http://www.fsfaboston.com)