

# FOUNTAIN STREET

for immediate release

## ***Vice Versa***

**Sarah Alexander + Kay Hartung**

November 2–26, 2023

SoWa First Friday Art Walk: November 3 | 5–8 PM

Artist Talk: Saturday, November 18 | 2 PM | Moderated by Shana Dumont Garr

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



**VICE VERSA**

Sarah Alexander + Kay Hartung

**BOSTON, MA** – Beginning November 2, 2023, Fountain Street Gallery will exhibit “Vice Versa,” featuring the drawings and sculpture of Sarah Alexander and shaped encaustic paintings of Kay Hartung. The exhibit celebrates the harmonious balance of opposites. Vibrant geometric shapes, intricate botanical drawings, and sculptures in steel meet in an interplay of contrasting styles. Boundaries blur, revealing a world where artistic expressions seamlessly invert and complement one another.

**Sarah Alexander** works in intricate, layered drawings and sculptures inspired by her garden. There is symbolic meaning behind each plant and seed she collects and depicts—as examples, thistles represent bravery, resilience, and protection while the oak is rooted in strength, wisdom, and healing. Working in a maximalist style, Alexander creates towers of botanical timelines as they transition from one season to another, exploring the natural order of one’s life cycle, and the dynamics of power, ritual, and succession. These themes echo throughout both of Alexander’s bodies of work, and the visual impact is one of irrepressibility, in which the drawings inspire the steel sculptures, and vice versa.

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Alexander is a self-taught, multi-disciplinary artist working on paper and canvas, and sculpting with steel. She is Director of Visual Arts at Hopkinton Center for the Arts in Hopkinton, MA, where she teaches classes for children and adults. Her work is in private collections and has been shown throughout New England and abroad. Alexander's work is published by North Light Books in *Incite: The Best of Mixed Media* (book series 1, 2 and 3). She is a Core Member of Fountain Street.

In her new series, **Kay Hartung** works with color, form, and geometry as her subjects. These shaped paintings take on individual personalities, transcending the boundaries of mere visual representations. She sees them as characters, slightly imbalanced and whimsical, full of color and contrast. The varying textural surfaces add depth and tactile richness to the compositions and invite the viewer to explore and engage on a visceral level. They reference architecture, music, nature, and the human body, and relate to symbols of stability and the shelter of home. Through her exploration of color relationships, and the interplay of abstract elements, Hartung strives to create a space where hope and vibrancy flourish.

Hartung works with encaustic and mixed media, creating paintings and prints as well as installation work. She received a BFA from Philadelphia College of Art and MFA from Syracuse University. She has been awarded grants from the Somerville Arts Council, Malden Arts Council, and Ford Foundation. Hartung exhibits widely and has taught at Endicott College and Bradford College. She lives with her husband, Paul, and their dog, Tori, in Acton, MA. Hartung is a Core Member of Fountain Street.

## Image Information

Left: Alexander, *Wild and Precious* (detail), pen and ink and watercolor, 61 x 17 inches

Right: Hartung, *Geotexture 2* (detail), encaustic on wood, 12 x 6 x 1.5 inches

## 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 our main and annex galleries, and 24/7 at our sidewalk video gallery. 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 commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion is reflected in the media that we exhibit, artists and curators that we promote, and audiences that we seek to engage.

## Contact

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