



**CLAIRE OLIVER GALLERY IS PLEASED TO PRESENT *IMPERMANENT CONDITIONS*
BY ARTIST LAUREN FENSTERSTOCK**

Exhibition Eight New Multimedia Sculptures, On View June 12– August 7, 2021



NEW YORK, NY, June 12, 2021 | Claire Oliver Gallery is pleased to announce a solo exhibition by artist Lauren Fensterstock, *Impermanent Conditions*. Featuring eight intricately constructed works, *Impermanent Conditions* investigates the interwoven political, personal, and environmental crises gripping us collectively in this moment, and ultimately reveals a need to look beyond a human centered reality for meaningful context. The exhibition features seven new wall-mounted mosaic suns (ranging in scale from one to four feet), inspired by the Buddha’s lecture “sermon of the seven suns” in which he describes a series of suns appearing one by one and having different impacts on the ecological landscape. By the appearance of the seventh sun, the cumulative effect of all seven suns hanging in sky together, causes the end of the world. The highly dimensional wall-mounted mosaic sculptures demand close looking as the dense surface is charged with frisson. The seven suns will be accompanied by a large-scale mirror work *Obsidian Grotto*. The exhibition will be on view June 12– August 7, 2021.

“With so much turmoil on the ground, I’ve turned my eyes to the sky for wisdom. Moody storms. Ominous comets. Dying stars,” states Fensterstock. “Weather events and celestial sightings are a historically rich location for the projection of human anxiety, hopes, and fears. Mosaics highlight the tension between small parts and a whole. Making a mosaic is the act of taking broken and disparate things and uniting them into something new and persistent. Although mosaic has a vast professional history it is also very much a part of the tradition of amateur ladies’ crafts that have long occupied my studio.”



This newest body of work builds on the artist's installation currently on display at the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum to investigate the storms brewing all around us. Fensterstock sources an eclectic mix of references including classical Zen texts, medieval European illuminations, and Leonard Cohen songs as guides in reading these portents. In addition to her signature black palette, the new work introduces a silvery array of dark mirror tones, adding glimpses of light and a place for deep reflection. The highly decorative surfaces highlight the beauty of a world that may at times be indifferent to us but is none the less beautiful in its complexity.

These seven new works will be accompanied by one large scrying mirror made from shells and carved obsidian, which was completed in 2018 but has never been shown before. Entitled *Obsidian Grotto*, 2018, and crafted from shells, carved obsidian, mixed media, this work is the largest in the exhibition. Whereas the seven suns look to the cosmos for a speculative future, *Obsidian Grotto* grounds the questions posed by the Seven Suns series in the traditions of human history and the materials of this Earth.

These seven Sun works are accompanied by a large Scrying mirror, exploring manmade nature. Entitled *Obsidian Grotto*, and created from vintage shells, carved and polished obsidian, and Plasti-dip, this work is the largest in the exhibition, measuring an impressive 58 inches. Whereas the seven suns look to the cosmos for a speculative future, *Obsidian Grotto* grounds the questions posed by the Seven Suns series in the traditions of human history and the materials of this Earth.

IMAGE CAPTIONS (L to R, top to bottom):

Lauren Fensterstock, *When a Sixth Sun*, glass, vintage crystal, quartz, and mixed media, 9 x 9 x 6 inches, courtesy of the artist and Claire Oliver Gallery

Lauren Fensterstock, detail of *When a Fourth Sun*, glass, vintage crystal, quartz, and mixed media, 15 x 15 x 9 inches, courtesy of the artist and Claire Oliver Gallery

Lauren Fensterstock, *Obsidian Grotto*, 2018, Shells, carved obsidian, mixed media 58 x 58 x 19 inches, courtesy of the artist and Claire Oliver Gallery

Lauren Fensterstock, *When a Third Sun*, glass, vintage crystal, quartz, and mixed media, 14 x 14 x 9 inches, courtesy of the artist and Claire Oliver Gallery

MEDIA CONTACT

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ABOUT CLAIRE OLIVER GALLERY

Claire Oliver Gallery is located in Central Harlem in a four-story brownstone. For nearly 25 years, Claire Oliver Gallery has showcased and celebrated artwork, with a focus on work by women and people of color, which transcends and challenges the traditional art historical cannon. Our forward-thinking program and exclusive commitment to the primary market allows for an intensive focus that has nurtured and grown the careers of our artists. Many of the gallery's artists have been included in The Venice Biennale, The Whitney Biennial, and biennales in Sydney, Pittsburgh, and Lyon and have exhibited works in major international museums including the Smithsonian American Art Museum, The Art Institute of Chicago, Center Georges Pompidou, The Philadelphia Museum of Art, and The Los Angeles County Museum of Art amongst others. Claire Oliver Gallery artists are included in the permanent collections of many important museums worldwide including The Smithsonian American Art Museum, The Art Institute of Chicago, The Tate Britain, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The State Hermitage Museum, MoMA, and the Museum of Arts and Design amongst many others. Claire Oliver Gallery held the first American exhibition for the Russian collaborative AES+F, whose work went on to twice represent Russia in the Russian pavilion of the Venice Biennale. Gallery artists have received prestigious fellowships including Fulbright, Guggenheim, USArtist and National Endowment for the Arts.

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