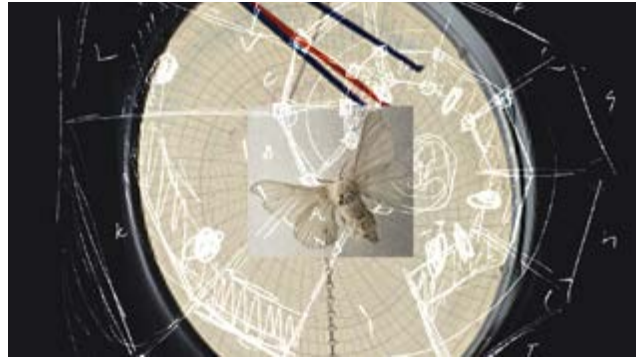


MEAGHAN ELYSE
Lighthouse of Moth

ELM Foundation | The Boiler
191 North 14th st. Brooklyn, NY
September 7th – September 28th, 2024
Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday: 1 – 6pm
Opening reception: Saturday, September 7th 6 – 9pm



(What to do with all the waste? What to do with all the war? The presence of these violences as we continue living and making work surrounds and vibrates inside everything we do.)

Lighthouse of Moth is an experimental new work and debut solo show of artist Meaghan Elyse. With this piece, she asks – *can the frequency of a body be felt across a room? Across the earth?*

Akin to moth larvae who consume and grow from synthetic and natural fibers, Elyse digests and regenerates collected materials. Discarded textiles and plastics are transformed and woven into an accumulation of something new and vital, giving substance to an inner spiral scaffolding. This construction forms a lighthouse, which offers a perspective of the cosmos on multiple scales: an inner, micro-cosmos, and a wider, macro-cosmos. A space for an inner *hold*, to rest and sit together on a curved bench – and a wider *release*, to push out – exhale – eject.

Drawing inspiration from the text *Vibrant Matter* by political theorist Elizabeth Bennett, everything is moving and acting upon each other at all scales: the energy within our bodies, pulsing through the pipes of the building, embedded in the earth below us, and stretching across the edge of the universe.

From a concentrated space, a lighthouse casts out a sign or a signal, a source of direction or warning. Sound and light oscillate between states of hold and release, like a Morse code. Playing with these elements, Elyse and collaborators explore the entanglement of material and language, body and idea: how concepts can become manifest and change us physically. The lighthouse becomes a fog horn – a vibrating speaker of sounds herself, sending sentient messages and breathing new life in conversation with the obsolete industrial boiler.

Nothing has a distinct category and everything has a weight in this installation composed of wood, sounds, fabrics and graphic signs. Through her making, Elyse becomes more aware of her body and its edges, and by extension, her animal-ness. She engages in the zoopoetic project of moving like a moth.

Within this walled garden, we might weave on a loom. The lighthouse geometries and tapestries are ever-expanding inward and outward. The spiral, like an art practice, like a home and a sense of place in the world, grows at a steady snail's pace in continuous formation.

Lighthouse of Moth is made in collaboration with ELM Foundation students, visual artist/woodworker Pete Marzilli, sound artist Char Jeré, and performer John Maria Gutierrez.



SPECIAL THANKS & SUPPORT

Grace Stewart, Mimi Gottesdiener, Paul Eisenberg, Caroline Cadieux Maxwell, Veronica Patrick, Tati Marcel, Dare Brawley, Pablo Ros, Cecilia Caldiera, Ray Barsante, Andrew Brehm, Erin Lueck, Kristen Blair Lueck, Nancy Traversy, Martin Lueck, Barefoot Books, Adele DuJardin, InOutUp Collective, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, American Mime Theatre.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Saturday, September 7: **Opening Reception, with activation by Dancer John Maria Gutierrez.** 6-9:00 pm

Saturday, September 14: **Steam Works: Mask-making with Artist Meaghan Elyse.** 2-4:00 pm

In this free kids workshop attendees will make masks in the shape of elements from the exhibition, such as moths, birds and shells, and decorate their character using found scrap materials and fabrics. The session will also include a moment of observation and attentive listening.

Wednesday, September 25: **Community Works - What it's like to be a bird.** 6:30-9:00 pm

A free, open to the public, panel conversation hosted by the artist, on vital materialism and zoopoetics, (Panelists TBD).

ABOUT MEAGHAN ELYSE

Meaghan Elyse (b. London, UK) is an interdisciplinary artist and designer based in New York. In a moment of ecological and spiritual loss, heartache and disorientation, her installations seek to create space for a communal pause, healing and reimagining.

Elyse holds a BA & MFA in Visual Arts from Columbia University, where she was the recipient of the Leroy Neiman Fellowship and Louis Sudler Prize. She recently completed a studio residency on Governors Island with the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, as well as a residency in the Joshua Tree desert at A-Z West. She has exhibited works at the Climate Imaginarium, the Jewish Museum, Storage Gallery, TheBlanc Gallery, Half Gallery, and Hofstra University.

ABOUT THE BOILER

An exhibition space housing a historic boiler built in 1937, The Boiler operates inside ELM Foundation, a community nonprofit arts organization in North Brooklyn that provides inclusive and accessible arts engagement for the public. An extension of ELM, The Boiler supports its mission of advocating for the benefits of art through exhibitions and programs that provide equitable access to the space and promotes diversity within contemporary arts. Programming at The Boiler includes several series that intersect with exhibitions. Designed as a free workshop for youth, students participating in the Steam Works series engage in projects with exhibiting artists that relate to their practice and displayed work.

ABOUT ELM FOUNDATION

ELM Foundation is a community-based nonprofit that promotes the healing and transformative power of the arts. Our methods include advocating the benefits of arts therapy, providing multidisciplinary arts education, and facilitating a nurturing environment for self-expression, all working together to form a regenerative creative collective.

