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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

ANNA GREGOR

After Faith

with a preview of

PEONIA VÁZQUEZ-D'AMICO

My druthers: prayer cards of and for the body

Art on Paper

Pier 36, Downtown Manhattan

299 South Street

New York, 10002

September 5 – 8, 2024

Tomato Mouse is proud to present *After Faith*, a solo exhibition of carved paper works by Anna Gregor at the Art on Paper fair at Pier 36 in Manhattan, September 5 through 8, 2024, with a sneak preview of Peonia Vázquez-D'Amico's forthcoming solo exhibition *My druthers: prayer cards of and for the body*.

By methodically carving away layers from paper, Anna Gregor creates a shallow relief that captures light within the depth of a single sheet of paper. Imagery becomes visible when the paper is backlit. The works are "in" rather than "on" paper, making use of paper's translucence. Gregor says: "I developed the technique to works inspired by Christian icons: mediating material objects that project the divine into a form visible to humans, only instead of projecting the divine into visibility, I wanted these carved paper works to mediate undifferentiated light into intelligible form." The paper as a whole takes on the radiance once contained in a halo.

Emphasis is shifted within the compositional structures of the icons. Gilded fields in the original paintings glow here so that surrounding architectures and halos outshine the obscured figures of the Virgin and saints. The visual effect is like an after-image of foundational stories so familiar as to be almost invisible. With narratives removed, alcove-like structures remain. A palpable absence is at the center. If we consider this as representing the loss of universals, then these works are an opportunity to consider the framing around this vacuum. This body of work, a concise exploration of paper as a medium of light, is evocative of shadow puppets and lantern slides. They invest paper with significance as medium, body, material, and container. Neither surface nor window, these works are paintings located within the shallow depth of single sheets of paper.

Anna Gregor has recently had solo shows at D.D.D.D. Pictures, New York, Moira Fitzsimmons Arons Art Gallery, Hamden, CT, and Tomato Mouse. She received her BFA from Parson's The New School and will complete her MFA at Hunter University in 2025. She is a 2024 recipient of the Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Award.

Tomato Mouse will also present a preview of Peonia Vázquez-D'Amico's *My druthers: prayer cards of and for the body*, a suite of eight votary-sized watercolors hovering at the edge of visibility.

Working entirely from observation, Vázquez-D'Amico uses still life to convey processes interior to her body and to record her acute awareness of its fragility and failures. Recognition is neither immediate nor essential. Her translucent brushstrokes depict everyday objects — fabric, flowers, vegetables, string — that read as tissues, bones, frayed tendons, and muscles half-submerged in milk.

Peonia Vázquez-D'Amico was born in Guadalajara, Mexico, and grew up in Mexico, the U.S. and Ecuador. She received a BFA from the Cooper Union and currently lives and works in New York City.

Tomato Mouse is an artist-run gallery in Brooklyn. For more information, please contact Rebecca Bird at 347-365-6741 or tomatomousetomatomouse@gmail.com.