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For Immediate
Release
10.12.2023

Cammie Staros: Unearthing the Sky
November 1, 2023 – March 2, 2024
PCG's Reilly Gallery,
Smith Center for the Arts

MEDIA CONTACT:

Elizabeth Corkery
Communications Associate
Providence College Galleries
pcgalleries@providence.edu

Opening Events:

Wednesday, November 1st
5-7pm: Artist Conversation & Public Reception



Cammie Staros, *The Weight of Medusa's Head*, 2017. Courtesy of the artist and Shulamit Nazarian Gallery, Los Angeles.

Over the past decade, Los Angeles-based artist Cammie Staros has investigated the ways in which classical antiquities have come to represent an origin story of Western art history.

Unearthing the Sky brings together several bodies of work made over the last seven years, that include investigations in ceramic, neon, aquatics, and stone. Within the work that makes up the exhibition, the artist explores tropes of classical art history and mythology by appropriating and transforming the visual language of Greco-Roman architecture and artifacts.

Through a combination of ancient techniques, contemporary sensibility, and museological display, Staros' sculptures fold the past in on itself to reveal semiotic systems developed and reinforced through visual history. Her works remind us that historical narratives are told through visual languages as much as written ones. Staros contributes her own symbology to a constellation of references from far-flung regions and eras and entices her audiences to reexamine the role of historical objects.

Through her sculptures, the artist considers the representation of desire, violence, gender codes, and institutional tropes of display, all embedded in the materials and images of antiquity.

This is the artist's first institutional exhibition on the East Coast and is organized by Former PCG Interim Director Kate McNamara.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Providence College Galleries—
Hunt-Cavanagh Gallery at
Hunt-Cavanagh Hall
—Reilly Gallery at
the Smith Center for the Arts
Providence College

Public Entrance:
212 Huxley Avenue
Providence, RI, 02918

Open Hours (During
Exhibitions)
Mon–Sat, 11am–6pm



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ABOUT THE ARTIST

About Cammie Staros (b. 1983, Nashville, TN; Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA) received her BA from Brown University, Providence, in 2006 and her MFA from California Institute of the Arts, Los Angeles, in 2011. Staros has had solo exhibitions at Pitzer College Art Galleries, Claremont, CA; Shulamit Nazarian, Los Angeles, Lefebvre & Fils, Paris, and François Ghebaly, Los Angeles. The artist was included in the Craft Contemporary's second clay biennial in Los Angeles. Staros' work is featured in *100 Sculptors of Tomorrow*, a survey of contemporary sculpture, authored by Kurt Beers and published by Thames & Hudson. She has also been featured in *Artforum*, *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Hyperallergic*, *Autre Magazine*, and the *X-TRA* art journal. She has been the recipient of several residences, grants, and awards including a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2020 and a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant in 2023. The Pollock Krasner Foundation grant helped make this show possible, in concert with the generosity and technical assistance of Chiarini Marble and Stone. Staros has a forthcoming solo exhibition at the SCAD Museum of Art in 2024.

ABOUT PROVIDENCE COLLEGE GALLERIES

Providence College Galleries [PCG] is committed entirely to museum-quality presentations of the art and artists of our time. PCG showcases contemporary art to advance Providence College's mission to cultivate "aesthetic appreciation, and understanding of the natural world, other cultures, and diverse traditions" while promoting "the common good and service of neighbors near and far."

PCG operates within two exhibition spaces, on a multi-platform website, across the College's campus, and within the public sphere throughout the city of Providence. PCG's activities include collecting and commissioning art, organizing exhibitions and public art displays, publishing texts, hosting artist residencies, presenting public programs and events, and advocating for local artists and art communities. PCG supports the educational, service, and community-oriented goals of the College by showing how and why artists are vital forces in shaping contemporary culture.

For more information about PCG, visit pcgalleries.providence.edu.